

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, March 20, 2014

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Chain reaction

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£100m bus deal just the ticket for region

NATIONAL Express West Midlands, the region's biggest bus operator, has today announced the signing of a £100m deal for 600 brand new state-of-the-art British built buses.

The agreement with Alexander Dennis will support 2,000 British jobs.

The announcement has been welcomed by Black Country MPs Ian Austin and Tom Watson who have called on other West Midlands companies to follow suit and buy British.

Technology

The 600 vehicles, a mix of double deck and smaller midi buses, will be built by Alexander Dennis Limited and will support more than 2,000 British jobs.

Every vehicle ordered will secure a British worker's job for a year.

The new vehicles will be equipped with the latest customer comfort technology, environmentally friendly low emissions engines and high definition CCTV.

Dudley North Ian Austin MP said: "This is an example of what a great British company should be doing."

"Supporting British manufacturing, securing jobs and signing deals that give British companies security is vital to our economic growth. I urge other companies to follow National Express West Midlands' lead."

Cyclist dies in accident

A CYCLIST has died after hitting a lamp post on a road near Stourbridge.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the crash on the A458 Bridgnorth Road in Enville, near to the junction of Blundies Lane at around 3.30pm on Saturday.

The cyclist was rushed to Russells Hall Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. He has been identified as Christopher Storer, aged 51, of Dix Avenue, Smalley, Derbyshire.

Court case — see page 13

Volunteer shock for canal trust

A CANAL trust is to review operating procedures after a sex offender banned from contact with children took part in demonstrations attended by youngsters.

Edward 'Eddy' Hunt was a volunteer at Dudley Canal Trust for three years. The 68-year-old, from Mickley Avenue, Park Village, admitted breaching the terms of a Sex Offender Prevention Order and was given a three-year community order by Wolverhampton Crown Court. The hearing was told the trust had taken him on without checking if he had a criminal past.

Trust director Alan Hazeldine said: "The Dudley Canal Trust is reviewing all its operating and volunteer manning procedures. This is in order to eliminate the possibility of this ever happening again."

Mr Hazeldine said Hunt had never been employed as a skipper on boats which take passengers on canal trips. He explained:

"His only involvement with Dudley Canal Trust was moving the historic boat Sagitta 3 and carrying out demonstrations."

"Demonstrations only take place when a minimum of two volunteers are present and all children are accompanied by a parent or responsible adult."

Mr Smith's funeral at Gornal Wood Cemetery on Monday was on what would have been their 44th wedding anniversary.

Report by Mark Andrews

"WE HAVE never been apart, we have always been together. I sit here looking at his chair every day, I miss Jim and he misses me."

These were the words of 90-year-old Joyce Smith in November as she pleaded with social services chiefs to allow her to move into the same residential care home as her 96-year-old husband Jim.

Her wish came true in January but she was taken ill, suffering a massive stroke just four days after she moved into the home and before the couple had actually been reunited as Mr Smith was ill. Now Dunkirk and D-Day veteran Mr Smith has also died at the Island

Court care home in Dudley, just 20 days after the death of his wife.

Mrs Smith, who was admitted to Russells Hall Hospital following a fall just before Christmas was finally allowed to move into Island Court at the end of January. Within four days, she suffered a massive stroke and died on February 10.

Devoted

Mrs Smith's daughter Diane Fellows, 63, said: "I'm convinced it was down to all that stress. If they had listened to us in the first place, I honestly believe she would still be here."

The couple had both been widowed when they met at Diane's wedding on March 17, 1969, and were married a year to the day.

Mrs Fellows, of Gordon Avenue, Lanesfield, said: "They were a devoted couple, and it broke my mother's heart when they were apart."

The couple's heartache began in August when Mr Smith was admitted to Russells Hall after being taken ill with a kidney complaint. When he was discharged after four weeks, social services ruled he was not fit to return to the flat he shared with his wife in Brunel Court, Wombourne, and he moved into Island Court in Bourne Street, Woodsetton, on September 4. As Mrs Smith's health was not judged serious enough to warrant full-time nursing care, she was told she could not join him.

While staff at Island Court said they were prepared to allow Mrs Smith to move in with her husband, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust had said her condition did not justify the £391-a-week care cost.

Mr Smith's funeral at Gornal Wood Cemetery on Monday was on what would have been their 44th wedding anniversary.



Joyce Smith with a picture of her beloved husband Jim after he had been taken into the home

Jobs boost as Aldi will recruit at open day

A DISCOUNT supermarket chain is to recruit more than 70 people as it continues to expand to meet a growing demand in sales.

Aldi already announced it was creating 35 jobs ahead of the opening of its latest store in Birmingham Road in Wolverhampton and this week the firm said it was to employ 40 more people for eight of its existing stores across the Black Country.

Community

The German company, which has emerged nationally as a competitor to major supermarkets like Sainsbury's and Tesco, is holding a recruitment open day in Brierley Hill tomorrow (Friday).

Aldi area manager Leon Donald said: "Aldi is looking for further members of staff in the West Midlands due to an increase in sales for all stores across the region, and Aldi hopes to recruit primarily from the local community.

A spokesman added: "The positions will be for a number of stores across the West Midlands, including Brierley Hill, Dudley, Stourbridge, Netherton, Halesowen, Wolstanton, Kidderminster and Bridgnorth, with 40 jobs available in total."

The recruitment event will be at the Copthorne Hotel in Merry Hill from 1pm to 5pm.

No to more theatre talks

BOSSES at Dudley Council say time is up for campaigners to debate their plan to save Dudley Hippodrome.

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome have asked for fresh talks with the council on their business plan for the future of the theatre.

But regeneration chief Councillor Judy Foster has refused to re-enter talks.

An independent report gives a bleak outlook on the viability of the venue if saved from demolition.

Expert view — see page 6

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Tyre deal clears obstacle for new store

A BUDGET supermarket's plans for a new store in Kingswinford look set to progress now a deal has been done with tyre business on the site of the proposed supermarket.

Lidl had already secured permission to open a branch on the Duckworth Trading Estate, off Stallings Lane, in Kingswinford. But now it is asking to increase the size of the store by almost 20 per cent. Bosses

say that, if the move gets the go ahead, it would create around 40 new jobs.

In submitted plans the firm said: "We anticipate it will bring several million pounds worth of investment into the area, providing a new, attractive and modern development consisting of a Lidl food store, offering local employment."

Single-storey warehouses and

workshops at the trading estate will be demolished to make way for the new store.

The estate was occupied by a furniture store, a windows manufacturer and martial arts academy but they were relocated when planning permission for the supermarket was first granted last year.

Only Kingswinford Tyres Ltd remained on the estate but the firm's

boss Andrew Page said it was also relocating to Dawley Brook Road late next month following a financial settlement.

The move will result in a £100,000 investment for the garage, see its base expand by 30 per cent and workforce go from 10 to 14. Mr Page said: "I have decided to take the positives from the negatives and look forward to our move."

Mother's thanks to car crash rescuers

A MOTHER who was cut free from her car following a crash in Brierley Hill has thanked those who helped rescue her.

A Renault and Audi collided in Swan Lane at about 5.30pm on Saturday.

Kate Cooke, 34, of Stourbridge, was taken to Russells Hall Hospital after her Renault was involved in a collision with an Audi car in Swan Lane at around 5.30pm on Saturday.

Three young men in the Audi suffered minor facial injuries and were treated at the scene by paramedics.

Mrs Cooke, of Old Barn Road, had been on her way to the shops when the collision happened.

Firefighters removed the roof of her car with cutting equipment before strapping her to a spinal board.

Mother-of-one Mrs Cooke said: "My car spun. It was incredibly frightening."

"I would like to thank firefighters and there was a nice paramedic who sat with me and made me feel safe. There was also a nice lady who lived nearby and came out. She held my head very still."

"I feel very lucky. I'm badly bruised and on crutches but nothing is broken."

Group meet at hospital

WEST Midlands Lupus Group host a drop-in clinic at Russells Hall Hospital today (Thursday)

Guest Speakers are Dr Ray Sandhu, who is consultant rheumatologist and Lupus UK director Chris Maker in the ward A1 dayroom in the rheumatology department between 2pm and 4pm.

Information will be available and representatives of West Midlands Lupus Group will attend. For further information call Yvonne Norton on 01902 498236 or visit the www.westmidlandsluspus.co.uk website.

Village homes

PLANS to build two homes in a South Staffordshire village have been lodged.

The semi-detached properties have been earmarked for land in The Acre, Kinver.

A planning application has been submitted to South Staffordshire Council.

Protesters step up waste site campaign

HUNDREDS of people are backing a campaign to stop Brierley Hill becoming 'the waste capital of the West Midlands' by opposing a controversial waste plant.

A total of 961 residents had written against Clean Power Properties' bid to build the plant off Moor Lane in Brierley Hill ahead of this week's deadline for submissions for a public inquiry to decide on it.

They say they will continue to fight against the scheme right up to the hearing date with a variety of events being organised to drum up support and keep residents informed.

The campaigners - who go under the name Brierley Hill SNOW (Say No To Waste site) - hired a stall at the town's market to publicise their battle and gather more support.

Objection

Campaigner Tim Lees, aged 63, of Seagers Lane, said: "We've been extremely busy compiling residents' letters of objection ahead of the deadline to submit our evidence against the scheme. We have real concerns about the smell from the site, then the traffic it will create."

"We already have one rubbish pile, if we got this would it make us the waste capital of the West Midlands?" Councillor Sparks said the authority was waiting to hear the outcome of the request from the Court of Appeal.

Officials had hoped the battle was nearing an end after Deputy Judge David Halpern QC upheld an earlier court ruling striking out the association's defence to the council's action to reclaim the land.

Councillor Sparks said that the 'complex situation' has now become even more complicated, likening it to a 'legal labyrinth'.

The public inquiry at Dudley Council House starts on June 17.

Chain reaction to lotto success



Dudley's Black Country Living Museum chainmaker Kevin Lowe with the iron 100 SPARKS have been flying at the Black Country Living Museum to celebrate the Midlanders who have won money in the Lotto Raffle.

There are 100 people from the Black Country who have each scored £20,000 win in the Lotto Raffle, which was only launched six months ago. They have also helped good causes and attractions such as the museum who benefit from lottery funding.

The Black Country Living Museum has received more than £5 million Heritage Lottery Funding to date and wanted to do something to say thank you for the help the lottery had given the venue.

Kevin Lowe, a chainmaker at the museum in Tipton Road crafted the number 100 out of iron using traditional blacksmithing techniques. He said: "It's took me all day to produce the final piece and it took a lot of time to get it just right."

Staff at the museum also accepted a plaque to record the Lotto success.

Laura Wakelin, spokesperson for the mu-

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

AFTER this week's suggestion of a super-city to be called Greater Birmingham, there was outrage further west and even a demand for it to be called Greater Black Country. The only fair way forward is to find the exact centre of the proposed city and take that as the name. After much measuring on the map I have it. Greater Pleck.

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SHERYL Sandberg, the Facebook chief executive and Anna Maria Chavez, the head of American Girl Scouts, are heading a campaign to ban the word "bossy" on the grounds that being called bossy undermines the confidence of girls. What a pair of bossyboots.

□□□□□□□

IN LIFE, unspeakable. In death, unimpeachable. What a shame some of the nice things being said about Bob Crow since his sudden death were not said before. Two things made me like him. Firstly, I always admire people who speak up for others. Secondly, I never use the Tube.

□□□□□□□

ED Miliband says a Labour government would not hold a referendum on membership of the EU unless Britain is asked to transfer more powers to Brussels. Imagine the fun the lawyers could have defining "powers," "asked," "transfer" and "to Brussels." What Miliband really means is that the British people will never be allowed to pull out. Which, to be fair, is much the same as David Cameron means. The net result of Cameron and Miliband's EU dithering will be a landslide for Ukip in the EU elections in May. It's that opportunity we humble voters get every five years to thumb our noses at the big political parties with that wonderful line from Romeo and Juliet: a plague on both your houses.

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AT a trade fair in Hanover, David Cameron looks forward to a new industrial revolution when billions of everyday objects such as fridges will be able to "talk to each other" over the internet. That's right, Prime Minister. And at night the toys all come to life and dance around the nursery. Perhaps you've been working a bit too hard.

□□□□□□□

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Plans sent in for £2m charity pet hospital

PLANS for a new £2 million animal hospital in Oldbury have been lodged by pet charity PDSA. It follows an increase in demand for their services at its current base in Quinton.

The new site on the Wolverhampton Road will be known as the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals Centre for North-West Birmingham and Sandwell and will feature the latest veterinary equipment.

When people arrive they will walk into a spacious two-storey waiting area designed to be cool and well ventilated.

The rest of the site will be single storey to reduce the impact of the building on the surrounding area and will include two operating theatres, a dental theatre, six consulting rooms and staff accommodation.

The new centre will deal with around 20 consultations during the day and a further 20 during the evening and overnight.

Plans to build a new animal hospital in the borough were first discussed with Sandwell Council in 2011 after the charity experienced a rise in demand for its services.

A letter sent to Sandwell Council's planning department on behalf of the charity said: "The building will provide a vital service to the poorer communities in West

by Tom Mason

Birmingham. The evidence from the existing centre, which is very congested, is conclusive proof of demand for this service."

"The site has been chosen because it is located within the community it seeks to serve and is on a main public transport corridor, thus making the site accessible by both private and public transport."

The letter goes on to say that around 30 full and part-time staff from the old centre will be kept on, safeguarding jobs locally and there will be potential for the creation of more jobs in the future.

The building has been designed to be flexible and will be built around an internal steel frame, to allow for future expansion of the facility or to accommodate changes in veterinary procedure.

The land, opposite Oldbury Academy, was originally owned by the council and was sold to the charity.

I miss Banks's, says Jeff



Rock legend Jeff Lynne, left, with Jasper Carrott

ROCK legend Jeff Lynne revealed he has not ruled out a return to touring as he became the latest Birmingham celebrity to be honoured on the city's Walk of Stars.

As the star accepted his home city's accolade, the frontman and co-founder of ELO told what he missed most from home: Banks's Bitter.

He spoke alongside long-time friend Jasper Carrott, from whom he received his star while standing on the roof of Birmingham's multi-million pound new library.

Now living in California, Lynne has spent little time in England over the past 23 years. He said: "I miss proper beer. I used to like Banks's a lot but I haven't had any of that for a long time."

His place on the Walk of Stars means the composer, music producer and Brummie rock hero follows in the footsteps of fellow musicians Ozzy Osbourne, Tony Iommi, Noddy Holder and his former band mate in The Move, Roy Wood, inaving a star etched with his name on Broad Street.

A 'PROFESSIONAL pick pocket' has got a year in jail for stealing three purses.

Lydia Turner, of John Street, Rowley Regis, stole the purses from handbags between February and July at the George Wallace pub in Victoria Street and the Lady Wulfrun in Lichfield Street in Wolverhampton.

Recorder Nicholas Syret sentenced her to four months in prison for each offence, to be served consecutively.

CCTV

Mr Simon Phillips, prosecuting, said Turner, aged 35, had stolen a purse from a bag on February 12 last year. He said: "She returned almost a month later on March 8, where she stole a purse from a handbag."

On July 3, she was caught on CCTV sitting near the victim in Lady Wulfrun where she used her to feet to grab the handbag.

Mr Phillips told Wolverhampton Crown Court that she was arrested on July 31 after photos were published in the Express & Star. The mother-of-one had a long history of dishonesty.

Mrs Geraldine Toal, for Turner, said she stole to fund her drug habit, adding: "She realises now the effect that her crimes have on victims."

Turner was banned from the two pubs for two years.

Hassle Free Days Out

Date	Excursion	Adult	Senior	Child	Route Code
MAY					
Sun 4th	Highclere Castle (<i>Downton Abbey</i>) House, Gardens & Egyptian Exhibition	£40	£40	£40	C
Mon 5th	Llandudno Victorian Extravaganza Bank Holiday Special	£17	£16	£15	A
Sat 10th	Barmouth... for the day	£17	£16	£15	B
Sat 10th	The National Archives - Kew, London To book this trip Contact Phil Lamb on 0121 422 9131	£21	£21	£21	
Tue 13th	Abergavenny Market & Tewkesbury 2 For Tuesday (2 SEATS FOR £22)	£14	£13	n/a	D
Fri 16th	Powis Castle & Gardens	£28	£25	n/a	B
Sat 17th	"Nifty National Trust Coach Club"	£25	£25	£20	A
Sat 17th	York - Nifty City Explorer Tour * Includes Hop On Hop off Open-Top Bus Ticket*	£15	£15	£15	A
Sat 17th	York as you please... "Shopping & Sightseeing" ALL SEATS ONLY £15.00				
Tue 20th	Cotswolds *Moreton Market & Bourton*				
Sun 25th	"2 SEATS FOR £22" (*Every Third Tuesday of the Month)	£13	£12	n/a	D
All inclusive Ticket (inc. unlimited ride wristband):	West Midlands Safari Park	£18	£17	£16	E
Mon 26th	Weston-Super-Mare on Bank Holiday *2 SEATS FOR £25*	£15	£14	£13	B
Thu 29th	Nifty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursion (Last Thursday of the Month)	£22	£22	n/a	TBC
Sat 31st	Warner Bros Studio, London Harry Potter Studio Tour	£50	£50	£40	C
JUNE					
Tue 3rd	Bourton-on-the-Water & Evesham Country Park 2 For Tuesday (2 SEATS FOR £22)	£13	£12	n/a	D
Sun 8th	RAF Cosford Air Show 2014	£26	£25	£24	C
Wed 11th	Tyntesfield House, Chapel & Gardens (Bristol)	£25	£25	n/a	B
Sat 14th	"Nifty National Trust Coach Club"	£20	£18	£16	A
Sun 15th	London as you please ... Also taking place ... Trooping of the Colour	£15	£14	£13	B
Sun 15th	Weston-Super-Mare on Father's Day *2 SEATS FOR £25*	£25	£24	£23	E
Sun 15th	Royal Three Counties Show - Malvern "Father's Day" (Entertainment and Fun)	£13	£12	n/a	D
Tue 17th	Cotswolds *Moreton Market & Bourton* 2 SEATS FOR £22 (Every third Tuesday of the month)	£18	£17	£15	B
Thur 19th	Swallow Falls Tour (Langollen, Betws-y-Coed, Swallow Falls)	£25	£23	£18	B
Sat 21st	Chester - Nifty City Explorer Tour *Includes Hop-on Hop-off open-top bus ticket*	£15	£15	£15	B
Sat 21st	Chester as you please ... "Shopping & Sightseeing" ALL SEATS ONLY £15	£28	£26	£20	D
Sun 22nd	Blenheim Palace "Flower Show" Entrance to palace, gardens and flower show included	£22	£22	n/a	TB
Sun 26th	Nifty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursion (Last Thursday of the month)	£15	£15	£15	B
Thu 26th	London Theatre "Matinee Show" - Warhorse OR Miss Saigon	£22	£20	£18	A
Thu 26th	London "Shopping & Sightseeing"	£21	£21	£21	-
Sat 28th	Abbey, Cathedral & Cheese Glastonbury Abbey, Wells & Cheddar	£16	£15	£14	A
Sat 28th	York Fair To book this trip Contact Phil Lamb on 0121 422 9131				
Sun 29th	Llandudno "Sea, Sand & Shops"				

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5 lb English Lamb Neck Fillets	£3.75 lb = £8.27 per kilo
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5 lb Fresh Shin Beef	£2.68 lb = £5.91 per kilo
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Dealer is put behind bars after car chase

A DRUG dealer who tore through residential streets on a Saturday lunchtime driving at 60 mph has been jailed. Joshua O'Neil fled police while driving his Honda Civic towards Halesowen on October 5.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that when officers saw O'Neil didn't have a seat belt on, he sped off and led them on pursuit of up to 10 miles. O'Neil even drove onto the pavement to avoid a police stinger.

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, played footage showing O'Neil driving on the wrong side of the road. Mr Searle said: "Much of the driving took place in 30 mph residential areas. He went through temporary traffic lights and caused a car to mount the pavement to avoid crashing into him. He reached speeds of 60mph."

He was caught when he drove into a cul-de-sac, crashing into a police car and the garden of a house.

Mr Searle added: "He was found with £280 worth of cannabis."

Mr Simon Hanns, defending, said: "That piece of driving is nothing to be proud of." O'Neil admitted dangerous driving, driving without a licence, without insurance and admitted possession of a Class B substance with intent to supply.

Recorder Greg Pryce sentenced O'Neil to 12 months in a youth offenders' institute and gave him three year driving ban.

MORE than 1,600 additional school places will be needed in Sandwell by next year as the borough experiences a massive baby boom.

An unprecedented rise in birth rates is putting pressure on the borough's schools.

The full extent ows revealed in a report to Sandwell Council which recommends the expansion of four primary schools under a £5.2 million programme to create extra reception places.

Two years ago the council identified the population was growing at a rate which would mean at least 1,000 new places would be needed every year if the boom continued at the same pace, but it has now quickened.

A new report reveals that of the borough 23 wards, 22 will need extra places by April next year to keep up with the current population surge that will see around 5,000 children apply for school places by September 2014.

The wards identified as most in need of spaces were Abbey, Bristmell, Princes End, Tipton Green and Old Warley.

The baby boom is being seen across the country.

The rise is being driven by more women in their 20s and 30s becoming mothers due to advances in healthcare, and more migrant families coming to the UK than the numbers leaving.

But the report warned that the only ward likely to continue to meet demand was Newton.

by Tom Mason

have previously criticised the withdrawal of funding to build any new school facilities after the cancellation of the borough's £138 million Building Schools for the Future programme.

At a meeting next week, children services chief Councillor Simon Hackett, will be asked to approve the expansions of four primary schools, Perryfields, Oldbury, Reddall Hill, Cradley Heath, Ferndale, Great Barr, and Holy Trinity, West Bromwich.

All four will be enlarged to accept more children this year but the move will only create an additional 105 places for reception children by September, still leaving a significant shortfall by next year.

It will help deal with a population increase of 8.9 per cent since between 2001 and 2011, the period covered by latest national census.

But the report warned that the only ward likely to continue to meet demand was Newton.

V for Victory on No Smoking Day



Lisa Hall, Sophie Blount, Kevan McDermott, Neil Tonks, Carol Tromans, and Sarah Willetts

HEALTH workers looked to the past to help give residents a future free from smoking at a roadshow urging people to kick the habit.

Members of Dudley Council's public health team dressed in 1940s clothing for the event held in Somers Square, Halesowen.

It was staged to tie in with No Smoking Day, which had a V for Victory theme.

Health workers dressed as Land Girls and RAF officers as popular songs from the era were played during the event.

Officials said it had been a success with around 40 people stopping to get advice on how to give up smoking.

The team will contact residents they have given advice to in order to see what actions they have taken to break the habit.

Stop Smoking co-ordinator for the team Joe Parkes said: "The day's slogan was V for Victory, like the one used during the Second World War, so we decided to give the roadshow a 40s-theme."

"It certainly caught the attention of people in the town and a lot of people came up to us during the event."

NEWS in brief

New bandstand plans for parks

NEW bandstands will be installed in two Sandwell parks under council proposals.

The scheme will see the installations at Dartmouth Park in West Bromwich and Victoria Park in Tipton.

Sandwell Council has begun the search for a supplier to recreate the Victorian bandstand that once stood in Dartmouth Park and may use a similar design in Victoria Park.

The exact cost of the scheme is not yet known but the search has been kicked off by the authority via the local networking website Find It In Sandwell.

The move could tie in with the ongoing multi-million pound transformation of Dartmouth Park.

Machine is on the cutting edge

THOMPSON, the Halesowen-based factory equipment manufacturer, is to supply a linear friction welding machine to a top organisation for developing production processes.

The machine will be used at Coventry's Manufacturing Technology Centre to look into ways of joining multi-metal components for the aerospace, medical and power generation industries.

The machine is designed to weld parts in a variety of materials. Thompson will be taking part in the Japan International Welding Show next month.

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ANDREWS

THEY say one of the surest signs of getting older is when the policemen start looking younger.

But what about when the police start looking smaller. Or made out of vinyl?

Over the last few months they seem to have been spreading like wildfire. PCSOs, community beat bobbies, it seems no shop is complete now without a self-adhesive law enforcer in the window.

We've all heard the unkind comments about 'plastic policemen', but really is taking it too far.

□□□□□

THE other week, while using a self-scanning till at a local branch of Tesco, a member of staff was required to verify that I was over the age of 18 while purchasing a six-pack of beer.

And what you might ask, is wrong with that? Well the beer in question was alcohol-free. Why, even the old Top Deck shandy cans used to have a trace of alcohol in them, and I don't recall children being stopped from buying them. Even stranger is the warning on Beck's Blue, another low alcohol brew. "Please drink responsibly" it says on the label, which gives the alcohol content as being 0.05 per cent. And quite right too. Do not even consider getting driving a car after 200 bottles.

□□□□□

NOEL Edmonds, unveiling his proposal to privatise the BBC, says he no longer buys a television licence because there is nothing on the normal terrestrial services he wants to watch. "I don't watch except on catch-up," he says. And quite right too. So how does he feel about all those years he was forcing Mr Blobby and Telly Addicts on us?

□□□□□

FIREFIGHTERS were this week called to deal with a fire at a suspected cannabis factory in Tettenhall, emitting huge plumes of smoke into the atmosphere. A man was arrested, but neighbours are said to be relaxed about the matter. Very relaxed indeed.

□□□□□

JUST when you think you have heard everything, Aaron Parfitt, 14, has been suspended from his school in Blackpool for organising a walk-out because he felt he was not getting enough homework. He complained he was passed from pillar to post when he tried to raise concerns about the quality of his teaching with Blackpool Council and Ofsted. He managed to persuade 100 of his peers to join him on his protest. I know teenagers will do anything for a day off school, but demanding more homework? The news comes a week after fellow Blackpool resident Gemma Worrall hit the headlines because she thought 'barracoo barer' was Britain's head of state. They must have some really good schools up there.



The Hippodrome building's crumbling facade



Inside the former top entertainment venue



The Dudley Hippodrome back in its heyday

Theatre just not viable, says expert

ANDREW TURTON reports on findings that call into question the reasoning for saving Dudley Hippodrome

IT is a report which delves into questions at the heart of a campaign to save the Dudley Hippodrome from being bulldozed into oblivion.

Experts are set the task to analyse the future for the theatre and whether hope to reopen the Hippodrome can become a reality.

Dudley Council spent £2,750 commissioning consultants to appraise a business plan compiled by campaigners to run the landmark theatre.

Now we can reveal the contents of that report after being granted access through a Freedom of Information request.

Herefordshire-based consultants Art-service were commissioned last year to look at the future of the building which celebrated its 75th anniversary last year.

Now the stark prediction dealt by consultant Alun Bond reveals concerns for the future.

Lifestyle

"The Hippodrome is a major theatre and has undoubtedly played an important and memorable role in the cultural life of Dudley and its people," he said. "In its heyday, would have been a major resource to the borough."

Unfortunately, due to the radical changes in lifestyle and leisure consumption that have taken place, its isolated location, the loss of its technical facilities, and the changes that have occurred in the regional market for theatre and in national touring product availability, mean that it is no longer positioned to be able to compete effectively in the theatre market. It is very difficult to see



Friends of Dudley Hippodrome Chairman Gordon Downing with supporters

Theatre, Birmingham Hippodrome and The New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham.

Campaigners had secured the interest of Bill Kenwright, a major producer of touring musicals, at bringing shows to the Hippodrome. However Mr Bond, in his report said it would be unlikely to secure productions from ATG, also known as the Ambassador Theatre Group, which is also one of the UK's leading theatre operators, as this would compete with the New Alexandra, which it operates.

He did add that the Hippodrome could play a role as a live music venue and may attract some visiting shows due to its large capacity. He also said the venue could conflict with the programme of shows already at borough venues such as Dudley Town Hall.

Yet friends group chairman Gordon Downing said this would not be a problem.

"Personally I'm not looking at staging one-off nights," Mr Downing said. "I would prefer shows to come in Tuesdays to Saturday."

"The fact that they say there is not enough room on the circuit, I can't imagine that one extra theatre would make much difference to them at all. They would only be working for one week extra and getting extra profit from that."

Mr Bond suggests a capital investment of between £5m and £10m would be needed along with a 'significant' annual council subsidy of at least £300,000 to £400,000 a year.

Many theatres are now managed by trusts or separate commercial operators, the report says.

Mr Bond says the 'danger' is the friends group would be unable to attract the funding required should it be retained and run on a voluntary basis.

But Mr Downing questioned the need for financial involvement by the council and says the friends group have never asked for support in annual subsidies.

"We never say it would be run by volunteers," he said. "Volunteering would mainly just be able help clearing it initially."

"Depending on the situation we would be looking to employ 15 to 16 full time staff."

Mr Downing added: "We have not asked for any money at all from the council but why shouldn't we have its co-operation at least. We want the council just to come back to the table and listen to us and see our vision."

THROUGH THE YEARS

1984

FIFTY patients, many attached to life support machines, were evacuated from Wolverhampton Royal Hospital as a blazing roof threatened to engulf the entire top floor.

A HIGH Court judge ordered the miners' union to call off flying pickets from travelling to pits which continued to operate during the strike. Mr Justice Nolan granted the National Coal Board an injunction under the controversial Employment Act

GERRY Adams, the Sinn Fein MP for West Belfast, was gunned down in his car during a lunch break from a court case he was involved in. He was taken to Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast after being shot in the city.

1994

CHART toppers Chaka Demus and Pliers appeared in Wolverhampton for the first time, but didn't get quite the reaction they had been hoping for. Angry fans threatened to walk out as they became tired of waiting for the band. The concert started at 7.30pm, but the group did not take to the stage until 10pm.

KIDNEY patients from Wolverhampton were flying to India for transplants because of a shortage of organs in Britain. Five people from the town had paid around £2,500 for the operations in Bombay clinics. The donors, from India's poorer classes, were risking their lives for as little as £200, it was claimed.

2004

A FRUIT and veg seller who fought a three-year battle for the right to sell in pounds and ounces died from a suspected heart attack at the age of 39. Steven Thoburn, from Sunderland, had been prosecuted for breaching the Weights and Measures Act by selling bananas by the pound. His Imperial scales were confiscated and he was given a six-month conditional discharge in 2001.

BUS lay-bys were being removed from a busy main road, sparking concerns the move would lead to an increase in congestion. The lay-bys were being blocked up as part of a £1.7m Red Route scheme along Stafford Road in Wolverhampton. Transport chiefs claimed that it would be safer for buses to stop on the main carriageway rather than pulling into lay-bys.

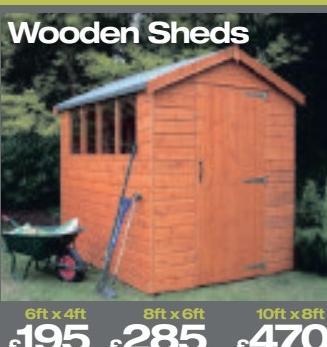
ASTON Villa ruthlessly despatched their Premiership neighbours Wolves with a 4-0 win. There was a brief chance for Wolves to get back into the game on the stroke of half-time but Thomas Sorensen saved a penalty from Vio Ganea.

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HERE we go again – somebody namely Andy Street, the managing director of John Lewis wants the people of the Black Country to change into Brummies, so that it would make Birmingham more competitive and become part of Greater Birmingham.

He says Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall will do! He said we could become like Greater Manchester. He also stresses that we can

keep our own councils also we would be second to nobody. What a laugh!

You may also notice it has been sanctioned by the big firms like Jaguar Land Rover and director Mike Wright because they are a global business and very shortly a John Lewis will be built in Birmingham. So they need Birmingham to look good and take parts of the Black Country as their slaves!

Birmingham have tried all this before. Do they realise that many people past and present have made the Black Country what it is today – world famous. We get bigger and better and

J WARDLE
Stourbridge

Facing a doctor dilemma

I TRIED to book to see my doctor and was told the first available appointment was more than a week away.

If it was an emergency I could ring at 8am the next morning when they opened up slots for people needing to see the doctor urgently.

My problem is a recurring upsetting annoyance which lasts for a couple or three days and then disappears. I have spoken to the doctor before but as all the symptoms had disappeared again he was unable to do anything. If I take the appointment for eight days' time, the problem could have righted itself again – so I will be back where I started.

All I and most other people want is an appointment within a couple of days without having to feel guilty for taking an emergency slot that someone more deserving could have used.

J JAMES
Stourbridge

Common sense on the theatre

I READ in the Dudley Chronicle dated March 6 that Ken Dodd is adding support to the Dudley Hippodrome campaign that is hoping to restore the theatre.

As an opponent to this idea I wonder how often Mr Dodd drives into town past Castle Hill Island and sees this monstrosity? Certainly not as frequently as most of us.

The amount of money needed to fund this must be millions of pounds and I hope that the council is not thinking of using tax payers' money to fund this, especially as the famous 'stage' is no longer there.

It is time for common sense to be applied to this issue.

J ABBISS
Milking Bank
Dudley

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL

Dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Parking charges deter hospital visits

HOW long before some poor soul has to go without hospital treatment due to parking charges?

Dudley Council's latest cash cow idea to charge residents £95 per year to park outside their own homes, will only increase the coffers of the private company that inflicts the sick tax on hospital visitors, patients and staff, by further enforcing their parking monopoly in the area.

The council must be made to understand that it is not their right to help finance the private company that owns Russells Hall Hospital parking rights by putting unnatural parking restrictions around the hospital residential area. The more the council help them by restricting parking in the hospital area, the more the private companies can charge us to park.

In South Staffordshire we have no hospital of our own so we have to travel by car as there is no direct bus to the hospital. How long will it be before someone has to avoid visiting a friend or family member or even having hospital treatment just because they cannot afford to park on, or are restricted from parking near, to the hospital?

UKIP are the only local political party to vigilantly oppose all hospital car park charges in our area.

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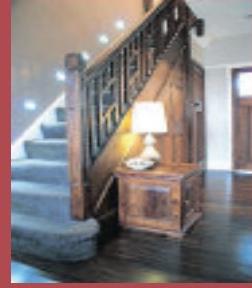


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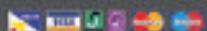
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Speaker in talk on Kays catalogue

WOLLASTON E TWG

CHAIRMAN Jean Latham welcomed 50 members and two visitors to the February meeting and read out the list of apologies.

The secretary then presented the minutes of the last meeting which were duly passed and signed. The treasurer continued with a favourable account of the finances.

Sub-section leaders reported that their respective groups, namely floral art, arts and crafts, tea and talents and ramblers, were all well attended. Bowling resumes at the beginning of April.

A visit to Hagley Hall at 2.30pm on Monday June 2 has been arranged. Numbers for this visit are limited. The cost is £10 which includes light refreshments.

The annual dinner has been booked for Tuesday May 6 at Stone Manor, near Kidderminster, commencing from 7.30pm. The cost is £20.

There will be a St George's Day event organised by the federation at Wollaston Village Hall on 23rd April.

The speaker for the evening was Mr Bernard Mills, who with the aid of slides, gave an insight into the Kays of Worcester catalogue.

The company, which has always operated in the Worcester area, has been in existence for more than 200 years.

Raffle prizes for the evening went to Gwyneth Rudge and Enid Lambert.

Excellent meal is dished up at AGM



Back, row, from left, speaker secretary Pauline Handley, treasurer Sandra Chappell, registrar Jan Burrows. Front, raffle Brenda Adkin, outings Ann Rogers and chairman Mary Jones

DUDLEY LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

ine Handley explained the new programme which included talks on Witley Court, canal art, My Life my Passion, the Old Hall Story, Waterboring in the Grenadines, flower arranging and Nova chocolates.

Ann Rogers was arranging a visit to Dudley Zoo including a cream tea and a coach outing to Gloucester Docks.

Meetings are held on the second Friday each month at 12.30pm. Call the secretary on 01902 372984 for more details.

Record number at last meeting

THE February meeting was held with a record attendance of 61 members and three visitors.

Rob and Diane Cole entertained with amusing slides based on the misuse of gardening and products and also told many anecdotes associated with gardening,

including a Scottish village

CLENT GARDEN CLUB

called 'Dull', which is aptly twinned with the town of 'Boring' in America. Bookings will be taken in the very near future for our two evening visits, the first on June 6 to The Bartons at Martley and the second one on June 24 to Hill Close

Gardens at Warwick. At the next meeting at 7.45pm on March 28 at Clent Parish Hall, the speaker will be Kim Hurst on "The True Cottage Garden".

For anyone interested in joining or visiting, log onto clentgardeningclub.wordpress.com/ or call chairman Pat Orme on 01384 394451.

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TV medic signs with growing furniture firm



Managing director Lisa Wardley and Dr Hilary Jones try out Repose chairs at the firm's showroom

A GROWING family-run specialist furniture firm has signed a television medical expert as its health advisor.

Dr Hilary Jones, who appears on GMTV's Daybreak and on Steve Wright's BBC Radio Two show, will be the face of Repose Furniture's range of bespoke chairs which have been developed to meet a wide range of healthcare needs.

Dr Jones visited Repose's new factory in Cokeland Place, Cradley Heath,

to sign a contract and help celebrate the business's 15th anniversary.

The Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Linda Horton, was among the guests who also visited on the day and she and managing director Lisa Wardley cut a celebration cake.

Growth

Commercial director Keith Fairhurst said that Dr Jones would help Repose to move on to the next stage of its growth.

The company, originally started in Cradley Heath, relocated from Brierley Hill where it had been since 2001

in August last year. Mr Fairhurst said the 23,500 sq ft unit has three times the space of the former premises and gave the company the room it needed to grow.

Repose's turnover grew by 27 per cent last year to £3.2 million and it aims to reach £5m by 2016.

The move has also seen the company recruit 10, increasing its workforce to 33.

Dr Jones said he was delighted to have become the 'medical ambassador' for the business which he said already had a wonderful reputation within the medical market.

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The company perform family favourite The Wiz on stage in 1999



Eurobeat director Maureen Bowyer, left, and Anne Hewitt



A stage adaption of comic strip favourite Andy Capp from 1991, by the company



A 1990 performance of The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas



The Night Maxi Tortellini Hit Big Lola Latrobes, in 1992

Group to see future in Eurovision for milestone silver anniversary

IT has created lifelong friendships and been served by different generations of the same families – and a musical theatre group is now celebrating its silver anniversary.

The Great Barr Musical Theatre Company has reached a milestone 25 years with its performances still a popular draw for audiences.

And to mark the occasion members will put on a show for a run of four nights – a first for the group. The company's first performance, in 1989, was a production of The Wiz, telling the classic story and musical The Wizard of Oz.

And since then members have gone on to bring a wide range of well-known musicals to the stage – including the Little Shop of Horrors, Guys and Dolls, the Wedding Singer and Boogie Nights.

Members have also performed Return to the Forbidden Planet, Little Me and Real-

ity the Musical. The group presently has 25 members but are always open to new people who want to join and take part in performances.

It also has its own band which performs the music during shows.

To celebrate the anniversary, the group will be putting on the special performance of musical Eurobeat in July.

The show, described as a 'mickey take' of the Eurovision Song Contest, will see a number of performances from 'contestants'. During the show, the audience is encouraged to get involved by voting for their favourites. It will be staged at the Old Rep Theatre, in Birmingham, from July 1 to 4.

Members of the group said they were very proud to reach the landmark anniversary but admitted it had not always been easy due to production costs and getting new

members on board. Office manager Anne Hewitt, 59 and from Duxford Road, Great Barr, has been a member since the group was founded by friends who convinced her to join.

Both of her daughters have been members of the group in the past, and her husband Gary joined up in 1997. She said: "Being a part of this company gives you great confidence and it's a great sense of being part of something," she said.

Memorable

"I've met some amazing people that have got amazing talent they didn't realise they had. I've had a lot of ups and downs in my life and it's helped me to get over them," she said.

Anne has performed in all of the group's shows and is one of only three original members taking an active role in the company alongside Albert Lyons and Margaret Pitt – although they have taken breaks from the group. Group secretary Maureen Bowyer said there had been memorable mo-

ments for the group over the years – including the time one member fell into the band pit before a performance. But after emerging unscathed the performer, Shirley Lane, went ahead with her performance.

Maureen said: "It really was a case of the show must go on. It was just before a production of Chicago. After she fell the whole place went totally silent for around 30 seconds until she popped her head out and shouted 'I'm okay'."

Rehearsals for the show are now well under way with the group meeting once a week at the Co-op Rooms, in Walsall Road, Great Barr on Tuesday evenings. And members have also been out and about searching for materials to make the costumes for the new show.

The group says, just like the real Eurovision, there will be a wide range of styles including traditional dress, some 70s Glam rock influenced outfits and some which are a little more bizarre. For ticket or membership inquiries, see www.greatbarmusicaltheatrecompany.co.uk

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Rockville now top of the pops on internet

A NEW Halesowen business which sells classic music publications has won quick recognition from internet giant eBay.

On leaving his job with a Government department last year, Simon Heritage set up Rockville Store, a 'virtual shop' to trade in vintage music items on the popular auction site.

The inspiration for the business, which he runs from his home, came from his lifelong love of music.

Rockville, launched last autumn, specialises in selling vintage copies of music newspapers New Musical Express, Melody Maker and Sounds, as well as concert memorabilia such as programmes and used tickets.

After less than four months trading, Rockville Store has been awarded eBay's top-rated seller status, which is given to high-volume traders who consistently offer an outstanding service.

Mr Heritage, aged 50, originally from Tipton, has lived in Halesowen for more than 15 years. He said: "I'm really delighted to now be classed as a top-rated seller. It was always a target in my business plan to attain this as soon as possible but I am still a little surprised at how quickly it has been accomplished."

"It's a nice reward for the long hours and effort put in to getting the business from the drawing board to the point where we now have hundreds of happy customers, all over the world."

Mr Heritage said a mix of people were buying the retro items he offers.

"Those in my age group might want to revisit the their youth, or replace stuff they regret throwing out years ago. On the other hand, thanks to the internet and digital radio, younger people are discovering a much wider range of music, including bands from



Simon Heritage found success with his Rockville 'virtual' music publications store 30 to 40 years ago. Having heard the songs, they then want to read about the band, or even frame an iconic magazine cover for their wall," he explained.

He added: "The single most difficult part of the business is listing items on the eBay site quickly enough. At any

one time, I am likely to have several hundred things piled up and waiting to be uploaded."

"I am hoping to be able to take on extra help to overcome this at some point, and to continue to expand."

The Rockville Store website is at: <http://stores.ebay.co.uk/rockvillestore>

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Jolly youth club memories at reunion

MEMBERS of a 'jolly' youth club founded nearly 90 years ago are getting ready for a big reunion. More than 140 former members are expected at the reunion of the Bloomfield Methodist Youth Club in Tipton on Saturday.

It was formed by The Rev Ran Holton as 'The Jolly Club', with separate boys' and girls' sections in 1925 and met at the Methodist church in Bloomfield Road, Tipton. It had various names until, in 1978, the church and hall were demolished and members transferred to Tipton Green Methodist Church. The club finally closed in 1986.

Roger Hill, of Mansion Close, Dudley, was the boys' leader from 1965 until 1981 and has produced a DVD showing film of the club's events. Mr Hill said: "We'll be showing the film at our reunion and we're looking forward to a great night with people from Spain and the USA coming over."

Any former member who would like to attend the reunion should contact Patrick Hoban 07876 755568.



Liz Nash, 20, at The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair at the NEC, Birmingham

Science sparks hair-raising fun at the Big Bang Fair

HOW'S this for a hair-raising experience - 20-year-old Liz Nash was one of thousands of young people enjoying the country's biggest science and engineering fair in the West Midlands.

She was trying out a Van de Graaff static electricity generator, one of the many exhibits at The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair at the NEC, Birmingham, last weekend.

The event, expected to welcome more than 75,000 people over three days, opened its doors to visitors who came to take part in science experiments, lectures and exhibitions.

Youngsters aged between seven and 19 were able to take part in a number of fun events including the

'Kaboom' show, hosted by TV science presenter Greg Foot that explored the anatomy of an explosion and the chemistry of gunpowder.

For those more interested in their stomachs, TV presenter Stefan Gates took visitors on an interesting journey into the science of their lunch, were they could see rockets, edible insects, flatulence and more loud explosions.

Paul Jackson, chief executive of The Big Bang, said: "The Big Bang Fair is more than just a fun day out. It gives young people the chance to speak to leading scientists and engineers and to see for themselves the range of exciting careers that their science and maths subjects can lead to."

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Burglar is behind bars thanks to schoolboy

A BURGLAR has been jailed after a sharp eyed schoolboy spotted him carrying his loot out of a family home and alerted the police.

Lee Cummins was tracked down after the 13-year-old spotted him and a friend loading a car outside the house and thought he 'looked dodgy'

Forensic experts later found his DNA on a screwdriver which he had used to break into the home in Torquay.

Exeter Crown Court heard Cummins, aged 36, from Overdale Road, Quinton, admit burglary. He was jailed for 15 months by Judge Jeremy Griggs.

Miss Bathsheba Cassel, prosecuting, said £1,760 worth of jewellery and valuables, including an engagement ring, were taken during the afternoon raid on the house in Barton Road, Torquay, in October. None of the valuables were recovered.

Damage costing £1,800 was caused to rear windows and doors when Cummins and a second man broke in.

Miss Cassel said: "A 13-year-old schoolboy, who was visiting a friend who lived nearby, saw two men in the road placing a suitcase into a car. He heard one man tell the other to hurry up and formed the impression they were, in his words, dodgy. He later identified this defendant in an ID procedure."

"The occupants came back from work at around 5.30pm and could see windows and doors at the rear had been attacked. The master bedroom had been ransacked and there had been untidy searches of other rooms. The owners say items of great sentimental value were taken."

"A further aggravating feature is that this offence occurred within days of you receiving a suspended sentence."

by Simon Stone

Cummins had previously served a jail term for burglary and had been made subject of a suspended sentence a month before for a burglar on a pet shop.

Miss Mary McCarthy, defending, said Cummins was a hard working builder who had succeeded in staying out of trouble for many years but used amphetamines after splitting up with his long term partner. On the day of the raid he had been using drugs.

She said he was now in a new relationship which will give him stability and enable him to stay out of trouble. He had already served a ten week suspended sentence, activated in December.

Judge Griggs told Cummins: "This sort of offending is particularly upsetting for the victims and you took sentimental items including the owner's mother's engagement ring. You caused great distress through the violation of their home, let alone the inconvenience of replacing keys which were stolen and repairing the damage to the property."

"The occupants came back from work at around 5.30pm and could see windows and doors at the rear had been attacked. The master bedroom had been ransacked and there had been untidy searches of other rooms. The owners say items of great sentimental value were taken."

Thousands fed meter for Christmas dinner

MORE than 5,600 families across the Black Country, South Staffordshire and Wyre Forest had to go to the shops on Christmas Day to pay their energy bills.

The figures have been uncovered by Dudley North MP Ian Austin, who said it showed the extent to which people were living in 'fuel poverty'.

The Labour MP asked the bill-paying company PayPoint how many people in each area had to use its machines in newsagents and convenience stores on Christmas Day.

He said it showed there were some people so hard pressed they were having to top up their electricity and gas just to cook the Christmas dinner. The figures showed 5,644 went to shops on December 25 to get credit.

Mr Austin said: "I want the Government to introduce an energy price freeze to help working families with their bills, but they're not taking action."

Villa Park hit hardest by theft

MOBILE phones, cash, debit cards and number plates have been stolen while fans were watching games at West Midland football grounds, figures show.

Aston Villa saw most complaints of thefts at their stadium in the last three years with 21 incidents recorded by police at Villa Park, which holds almost 43,000 fans, since 2010. In contrast, Wolves' Molineux, which has a capacity of 31,700, saw just seven recorded offences between 2010 and 2014.

West Bromwich Albion's The Hawthorns and Birmingham City's St Andrews saw 18 thefts each while Walsall's Banks's Stadium saw 16 despite the lowest capacity — 11,300 — of the five clubs.

Mobile phones were the most stolen item with 33 swiped at the five grounds in four years.

A SEX offender banned from contact with children got a voluntary job with a canal group visited by youngsters.

Edward 'Eddy' Hunt, 68, was a volunteer with Dudley Canal Trust for three years before his past was discovered, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. He had twice been jailed for offences involving children and been cautioned for possession of child porn. The trust took him on without

checking if he had a criminal past, revealed Mr Geoffrey Dann, prosecuting.

Hunt, of Park Village, who joined the trust in 2010, sometimes met school groups. Mr Dann added: "He was not left alone with the children, who had a teacher with them, but that action was a breach of the Sex Offender Prevention Order."

He was arrested in September after a sex offender manager, who took over his case, learned Hunt had contact with children as a volunteer. Mr David

Bratt, defending, said: "He had not kept this secret. The previous offender manager had been advised where he was working."

Hunt of Mickley Avenue, admitted breaking terms of the order and was given a three year community order and 24-week curfew. Trust director Alan Hazeldine said: "Dudley Canal Trust is reviewing all its operating and volunteer manning procedures in order to eliminate the possibility of this ever happening again."



Pervert Edward Hunt

Come on our Neil in Dexys book salute



Dexys Midnight Runners superfan Neil Warburton

DEXYS Midnight Runners superfan Neil Warburton has written book about the band's history. The 42-year-old from Oldbury is also long-time friend of the band's merciful frontman Kevin Rowland.

Mr Warburton first got into the band when a child and the very first record he bought was their 1980 chart-topper Geno. The group's Kevin Rowland lived in the same street as Neil, Apollo Road.

He said: "I remember sitting in front of the TV watching the band and my mum came in and saw Kevin. She said: 'He only lives up the road'. It is not often you find one of your neighbours is your favourite rock star."

Mr Warburton, who still lives in Apollo Road, eventually plucked up the courage to knock on his neighbour's door and ask for an autograph. The two men remain friends.

Mr Warburton's book is a compilation of 15 issues of his fanzine Keep On Running, published from 1995 to 2000, along with new interviews from band members. The book will be launched at Oldbury's Railway Inn and the Court of Requests pub in Church Road on Saturday.

Heroin dealer is back behind bars

A DRUG dealer is back behind bars after being caught selling heroin. Police found 13 wraps of the drug split into £10 deals when they raided the Dudley home of Harry Edwards on October 30, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

There were also three wraps of crack cocaine, three sets of scales, a roll of cling film, mobile phones and a Stanley blade at the address in Queen Street, Pensnett, said Mr Edwards, prosecuting.

Edwards, 39, had bought heroin to sell on to others but the cocaine was for his own use, the court heard.

Mr Malcolm Fowler, defending, said father-of-two Edwards had a long struggle with drug addiction. He had a previous conviction for drug dealing and other offences.

Edwards, admitted possession of heroin with intent to supply and possession of cocaine and was jailed for three years ten months by Judge John Warner, who told him:

"You have a very bad record spread over many years."

Canal heritage volunteer was a convicted sex offender

School to get road crossing

A ZEBRA crossing will be introduced outside a school in a bid to improve children's safety, at a cost of £20,000.

Dudley Council is to install the crossing on the Hagley Road, outside the Hasbury Primary School, in Halesowen.

Transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed made the decision after a consultation with residents, police and transport operators last month. Only one objection was made from a nearby resident concerned about the impact on property prices.

Councillor Ahmed said: "Having given consideration to the comments and observations received as well as the aims of the scheme to improve road safety, it is felt to be appropriate that the introduction of pedestrian crossing should proceed."

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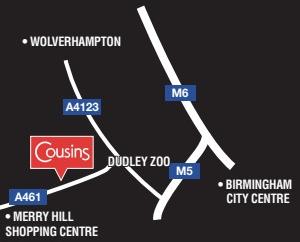
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Sandwell lack of qualifications

TWO areas of the Black Country have among the highest proportion of residents with no qualifications in the country.

Sandwell was placed third out of nearly 350 authorities for the highest amount of people between the ages of 16 and 64 who have no academic or professional qualifications while Walsall was placed sixth in the research by the Office of National Statistics.

The data comes from the 2011 census. According to the figures, nearly 50,000 people in Sandwell have no level of qualification, including GCSEs, A Levels, vocational qualifications or degrees, which equates to around one in four people in the borough.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for children's services, Councillor Simon Hackett, said officials were doing what they could to improve that figure.

Sir Trevor to open £1.2m football centre



An aerial view of Kewford Eagles facilities at Wall Heath

WORK has been completed on a £1.2 million football centre to coach the next generation of players, ahead of an official opening by one of the legends of the game.

More than 550 young footballers play for Kewford Eagles FC which has created a new centre of excellence in Wall Heath, Kingswinford.

Former England international Sir Trevor Brooking will officially open the new facility at the club's ground in Swindon Road on April 26.

Eleven new football pitches have been landscaped and created over the past 12 months on the ground neighbouring Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club.

Cash for the project came in the form of grants from the Football Foundation, Sport England, Cory Environmental and other funders.

A new sports pavilion has been built as part of the works alongside a car park on the 30-acre site.

There are also four changing rooms, toilets and a kitchen created as part of the development.

Sir Trevor will make the official opening from 12noon.

Kia crashes into a High Street takeaway

A MOTORIST was taken to hospital after her car clipped a parked vehicle before crashing into a shop front.

The woman suffered suspected spinal injuries in the crash which closed Dudley High Street for around 90 minutes on Monday. The fire service, ambulance and police were called to the scene at just before 11am after the black Kia crashed into Caspian Pizza shop.

Watch commander Paul Clark said: "We assisted paramedics to get a female, the driver, out of the vehicle using a long board. They treated her for suspected spine and neck injuries and took her to hospital. She had collided with a parked car and come to a rest against the shop."

Ryan Richards, owner of Slicks hairdressers next door to the takeaway, said: "It was cutting hair, and then boom. There was a loud bang and the car's in the wall."

A structural engineer from Dudley Council checked the building was safe and National Grid capped a gas pipe.

Warning on car cat crime as thieves chop off converters

A RETIRED foundry worker is appealing for help to track down 'cat crooks' who cut a valuable chunk out of his car exhaust in the latest in a spate of similar attacks.

Raiders jacked Ray Harvey's car up on his drive in Stourbridge during the early hours and hacked off its catalytic converter.

It follows police warnings and a campaign urging motorists to security mark their vehicles after more than 70 catalytic converters

— known as 'cats' — were stolen from cars and vans in Dudley.

Mr Harvey, aged 63, of Peak Road, Penfields, only realised what had happened when he heard a banging noise, followed by the exhaust falling off, as he started the car a few hours later.

Their son-in-law, unemployed mechanic Andre Didlick, of Amblecote, discovered that the 'cat' was missing.

Mr Harvey said: "They cost about £300 to replace. Thieves target them because they can sell the metals off for £200 or more and I would like to know if anyone saw the thieves."

A neighbour's CCTV caught the thieves on camera jacking up the car at 4.50am on March 8 and it took just three minutes 10 seconds for them to remove the 'cat'.

The footage showed the shadowy images of two men who arrived in a black car.

More than 70 catalytic converters were stolen in Dudley between April and December with thieves targeting vehicles including Mercedes Sprinter vans, Kia, Mitsubishi, Ford, Peugeot, Citroen and Hyundai. Police urge drivers not to park their cars with two wheels on the kerb because it gives easier access.

Teens rescued from reservoir

THREE teenagers were rescued from a water ski ramp after becoming stranded in the middle of a reservoir when their dinghy sank.

Two 15-year-old boys and a 16-year-old boy had been using a dinghy at Lodge Farm Reservoir, in Highbridge Road, Netherton, on Saturday.

Firefighters and water rescue unit were called to the reservoir, which is used by Dudley Water Ski Club, at about 5pm.

The teenagers are not believed to have been members. Fire crews used an inflatable boat to bring the boys back to shore.

Watch commander Roy Whitehead, from Brierley Hill fire station, said the boys were not stuck there for very long and were all okay.

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HC Apprentices brush up on their Deutsch



Billy Meldrum, Doosan Babcock's training manager, with engineering apprentices Danny Lord and Lucy Green

A GROUP of engineering apprentices from the Black Country have had a crash course in speaking German ahead of a cultural exchange.

Training experts BCTG, based in Oldbury, are taking the apprentices on a two-week work experience programme to businesses in Leipzig, Germany.

Another group of apprentices will head for Rybnik, in Poland, as part of the programme. In total 32 young engineers based at Doosan Babcock in Tipton will get the chance to work with their European counterparts and take in some of the culture when they travel to Doosan Babcock Energy Polska and Doosan Babcock Energy Germany.

Taking care with survey

RESIDENTS who look after friends, family or neighbours are being asked to contribute to a West Midlands-wide project focusing on training opportunities for carers.

The project aims to see which training sessions, workshops and online courses are the most useful for carers.

Feedback from them will shape future training opportunities and could help to create a wider choice of courses.

Councillor Barbara McCracken, portfolio holder for social care in Walsall is working with Suzanne Joyner, head of community care, to raise awareness of the project. She said: "People are not necessarily trained to do some of the things they need to do as part of their caring role and any

support they can access can help make a real difference to them. We are asking carers to take part in a survey to tell us exactly what they think of existing training opportunities."

The survey which is available at www.surveymonkey.com/s/Carer is open until May 15. It can be completed anonymously but those who give their details will be entered into a prize draw to win a £20 gift voucher for a store of their choice.

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Two reasons to enjoy St Patrick's Day

Clannad/Mary Black,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ST PATRICK'S DAY came to the Second City in two servings this year as the Symphony Hall hosted Dubliner Mary Black and Donegal band Clannad.

Veteran Black, who has been singing for more than 30 years, opened with Another Day, a fairly fast number and followed by one from her most recent album Stories from the Steeple, Mount-

tains to the Sea which saw Black really get into her stride. She gave the audience a good range of her repertoire which included All the Fine Young Men about the tragedy of WWI and indeed all wars. She went out, rather appropriately, with Song for Ireland which she sang with genuine emotion.

Clannad, who this year received a life time achievement award at BBC2 Folk Awards, took to the stage opening with the ethereal and atmospheric

Vellum from their new album Nadur and then proceeded to give the eager audience a good mix of old and new starting with another one from the same album Rhapsody rag Crann (Rhapsody of the Trees).

Moya Brennan's voice is just as haunting as the first time they came to major prominence more than three decades ago with the theme from Harry's Game, part of the set.

DANNY FARRAGHER

Dan is the man ready to step up

Jim Causley/Daniel Kirk,
Newhampton Folk Club,
Wolverhampton

COMETH the hour cometh the Dan.

Wolverhampton singer and guitarist Daniel Kirk saved the night when Devon musician Jim Causley had to give in to a cold.

The accordion playing singer tried his best to do his set but his voice just wasn't up to it. Apologising profusely, he had to call it a day after a few songs. It was a shame because underneath his viral attack there was a melodic voice worth listening to. He struggled with opener Polly Vaughan and by the time he got to In the Sidings he had to concede.

So support act Kirk, having already been warmly received by the audience, stepped into the breach.

There were no complaints as Kirk has a damn good voice. With songs such as Alabama Pines, SAM, House Carpenter and Riding to New York he made sure everyone got their money's worth.

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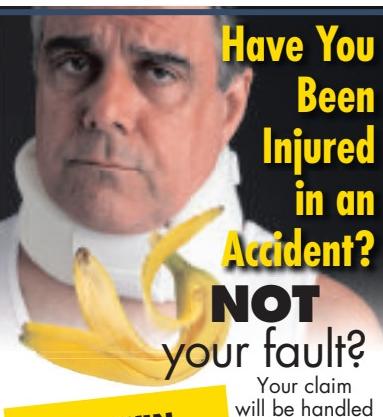
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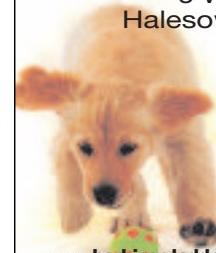
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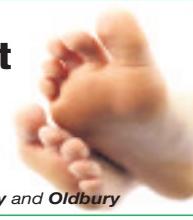
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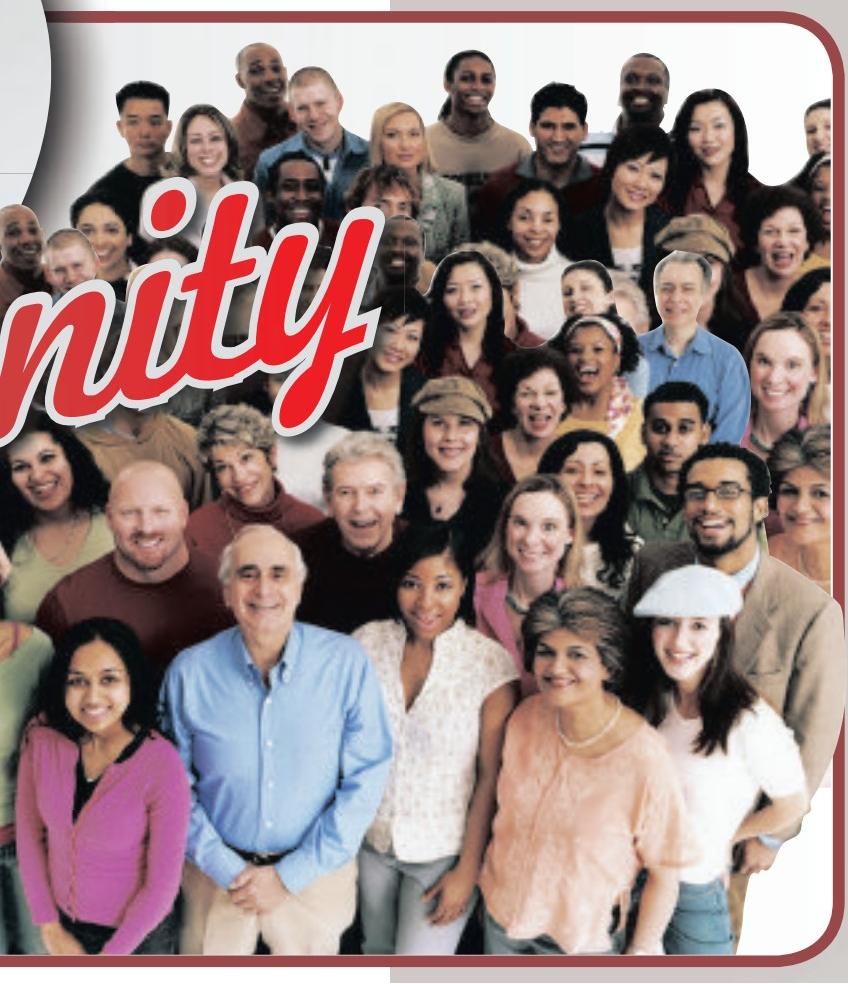


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Radio Robin 2 to get a preview

THE Robin 2 in Bilston which features many folk, blues and acoustic artists has added a radio station to its website — Robin 2 Radio. The station can accessed through the club's homepage, just click on the icon. It's provided through the club's site partners DeliRadio, and exclusively features artistes who perform at the Bilston club.

The internet radio station has just been created, so it is limited at the moment but will build up over coming weeks and will be an excellent way to preview forthcoming acts.

On the back of their new album folk/rockers Oysterband will be playing the venue tonight supported by Rumours of Spring. Tickets £16, doors open 7.30pm.

Sound of young and old America

THERE are some exciting gigs over the next few days for R&B and pop fans.

On Saturday Miami's Jason Derulo holds court at the NIA. Motown will be heard when The Four Tops and The Temptations are joined by Freda Payne at the NIA on Sunday.

Chart-topping Canadian rapper Drake is at the NIA tonight and tomorrow, while The Wanted will be Glad You Came at the LG Arena tonight, which also the night Gabrielle continues her comeback at Birmingham Town Hall.

Also tonight, The Big Reunion's 911 are at The Institute in Birmingham.

Opera project on day that war came to the Black Country

Musical will rain supreme

FRESH from its success in London's West End, the hit revival of Singin' In The Rain splashes into Birmingham this week.

Set in the golden age of Hollywood, this broly twirling classic will be staged at Birmingham Hippodrome until Saturday, April 5. Extra performances have been added due to popular demand.

The show features Maxwell Caulfield as studio boss, RF Simpson, Faye Tozer as starlet Lina Lamont and James Leece as silent movie star Don Lockwood — and a downpour on stage! Get ready for such songs as Make 'Em Laugh, Good Morning and, of course, Singin' In The Rain. If sitting in the front row, better wear a soubrette.

Tickets are priced £16 to £45, available online at www.birminghamhippodrome.com or on 0844 338 5000.



Turn your umbrella upside down to enjoy Singin' In The Rain at the Hippodrome

THE NIGHT the horrors of the First World War came to the Black Country will be recalled in a unique community opera, Zeppelin Dreams, with three performances at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre tonight and tomorrow.

Part of the theatre's programme to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the war, this production looks at the evening in 1916 when one of the largest German airships ever built got lost in the fog on the way to attack Liverpool's docks and dropped its bombs on the Black Country instead, killing 35 people.

More later died of their injuries. The victims included three generations of one family in Tipton, a courting couple in Bradley and Walsall's mayoress.

This community co-production with English Touring Opera includes an evening performance tonight (Thursday) and two performances tomorrow.

Tickets cost £7.50, from the website at www.grandtheatre.info, by phone on 0192 429212, or in person at the box office in Lichfield Street.

The Grand hosts Lesley Joseph in naughty girls' night out musical Hot Flush on Saturday.

The Russian State Ballet and Orchestra of Siberia present a selection of ballets at the Grand starting with Sleeping Beauty on Sunday at 4pm. There are perfor-



Aldersley pupils in the show

mances of Giselle (Monday, 7.30pm) and Swan Lake (Tuesday, 2.30 and 7.30pm).

Nostalgic musical Dreamboats And Petticoats, featuring hits from the early 1960s and written by Birds Of A Feather team Marks and Gran, is at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

The Russian State Ballet and Orchestra of Siberia present a selection of ballets at the Grand starting with Sleeping Beauty on Sunday at 4pm. There are perfor-

NME tour will showcase the best

A SHOWCASE for three of the best new bands will be headlined by one of New York's finest groups of recent years when the NME Awards Tour 2014 comes to Birmingham next week.

Tuesday's gig has switched from the O2 Academy to Digbeth's Institute, featuring Liverpool's Circa Waves, Brighton garage rock duo Royal Blood and Kettering's psychedelic Kettlers Temples, whilst NYC's Interpol top the bill.

Other rock gigs include Irish outfit Kodaline at the O2 Academy tonight and Franz Ferdinand at the same venue tomorrow. Punk veterans Stiff Little Fingers are at the Wulfrun Hall tomorrow and The Stranglers are at the O2 Academy on Saturday.

Oscillators and synths celebrated

MASTERS of moody electronica Alison Goldfrapp and Will Gregory have been realising their cinematic ambitions via the Tales Of Us film with director Lisa Gunning and a live performance recently beamed to the nation's cinema screens. Goldfrapp will be in the flesh at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Wednesday March 26.

The Radiophonic Workshop — famed for the Doctor Who theme — come to Birmingham on their first live tour. The Regeneration Tour includes a tribute to fellow electronic music pioneer Delia Derbyshire at the Town Hall on Monday.

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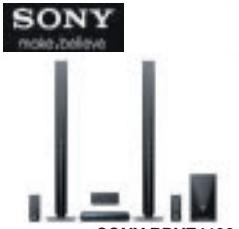
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BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen** Live. (R) 10.30 **Marvin Humes' Comforts**. (R) 12.00 **Football Focus**. (R) 12.45 **Saturday Sportspage**. (R) **1.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather**. (R) 1.15 **Bargain Hunt**. (R) **1.45 Escape to the Country**. (R) **2.45 Davine Beyond Breaking Point**. (R) **3.45 Reflex**, **4.30 Final Score**. (R) **5.10 BBC News: Regional News; Weather**. **5.25 Sport Relief: The Best Bits**.

6.45 The Voice UK. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present the first live round of the singing contest, in which the 12 remaining acts perform for a place in the semi-final.

8.40 The National Lottery Live. Kate Garraway reveals the results of the Lotto and the Thunderball, with music by Little Mix.

8.50 The Voice UK Results. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present as Kylie Minogue, Tom Jones, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson lose one act each, leaving them with just two for next week's semi-final.

9.25 Casualty. Ethan's conscience is tested when an activist asks him to hide his secrets, while Rita and Zoe help a desperate prisoner repair his relationship with his mother.

10.15 BBC News: Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights from the latest Premier League clashes, including Chelsea v Arsenal at Stamford Bridge and Cardiff City v Liverpool at the Cardiff City Stadium; National Lottery Update.

12.05 The Football League Show.

1.25 Weatherview. (R) **1.30 BBC Two News**.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.15 Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food**. (R) **6.45 Sport Relief's Top Dog**. (R) **7.15 Sport Relief's Top Dog**. (R) **7.45 Sport Relief's Top Dog**. (R) **8.15 Sport Relief's Top Dog**. (R) **8.45 Sport Relief's Top Dog**. (R) **9.15 Life on Earth**. (R) **10.10 The Nature of Britain**. (R) **11.00 Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain**, **11.30 Great British Railway Journeys**. (R)

12.00 James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.30 Mary Berry Cooks**. (R) **1.00 Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers**. (R) **1.05 Gregory Peck: Talking Pictures**. (R) **1.35 Film: Spellbound**. (1945) **3.25 In the Sentinel**. (1945) **7.15 Film: The Thin Man**. (1934) **9.45 Flout It!** **Trade Secrets**.

6.40 Don't Panic! The Dad's Army Story. Victoria Wood celebrates the comedy. (R)

7.30 Dad's Army. Walker is accused of treason.

8.00 The Perfect Moustache & Wise. Glenda Jackson dons a bow tie to bring a much class to proceedings.

8.30 The Plantagenets. Robert Bartlett tells the story of England's longest-ruling royal dynasty, beginning by examining how Henry II forged an empire after ascending the throne in 1154. (R)

9.30 IQ XL. Extended edition.

10.15 Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle. The comedian explores more themes.

10.45 Glasgow: Big Night Out. The city through the eyes of acts who have performed there. (R)

11.45 Film: Savage Grace. (2007) Fact-based drama, starring Julianne Moore.

11.5 Film: The Secret in Their Eyes. (2009) **3.15 This Is BBC Two**.

ITV

6.00 CTV: Dino Dan. **6.10 Dino Dan**. (R) **6.25 Matilda**. (R) **7.15 Sport Relief's Top Dog**. (R) **7.45 Canimals**. (R) **7.00 Canimals**. (R) **7.10 Om Nom Stories**. (R) **7.15 Om Nom Stories**. (R) **7.20 Sooty**. (R) **7.30 Scrambled!** **9.25 ITV News**. **9.30 Dinner Date**. (R) **10.25 Murder She Wrote**. (R) **11.20 ITV News**; **Weather**. **11.30 The Crocodile Hunter Diaries**. (R) **12.00 The Chase**. (R) **1.00 The Unforgettable Noel Gordon**. (R) **1.30 Midsummers Murders**. (R) **3.30 Film: Kindergarten Cop**. (1990) **5.30 Regional Programmes**. **7.30 Weather**. **8.45 ITV News**; **Weather**.

6.00 You've Been Framed! **A-Z of Animals**. Harry Hill takes an alphabetical look at videos from the animal kingdom, and targets merry mishaps pertaining to all 26 letters.

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The duo welcome presenter Christine Bleakley, and are assisted in their duties by guest announcers the Muppets. Little Ant and Dec also meet Samuel L Jackson and Scarlett Johansson.

8.25 The Cube. A personal trainer tackles a series of tough challenges from agility tests to skills trials, aiming to win a jackpot of £250,000. Phillip Schofield hosts.

9.25 The Americans. Elizabeth receives a distress signal, and Philip tries to work out what the consequences of their last operation will be for their family.

10.20 ITV News: Weather.

10.35 Film: Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason. (2004) Romantic comedy sequel, with Renée Zellweger.

12.35 Jackpot247. **3.00 In Plain Sight**. (R) **3.40 ITV Nightscreen**.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Close. **6.10 The Hoobs**. (R) **6.30 Sport Relief's Top Dog**. (R) **7.00 Morning Line**. **8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond**. (R) **9.25 Frasier**. (R) **9.55 The Big Bang Theory**. (R) **10.20 The Big Bang Theory**. (R) **10.45 How I Met Your Mother**. (R) **11.15 How I Met Your Mother**. (R) **11.45 The Simpsons**. (R) **12.15 The Simpsons**. (R) **12.40 Undercover Boss USA**. (R) **1.40 Channel 4 Racing**. **4.10 Come Dine with Me**. (R) **4.40 Come Dine with Me**. (R) **5.15 Come Dine with Me**. (R) **6.15 Come Dine with Me**. **Boe O'Leary hosts the final dinner party in north London**. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.05 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **7.30 Film: Teletubbies**. (2006) **8.00 Attack of the Show!** (R) **8.30 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD**. (R) **9.00 Attack of the Show!** (R) **9.30 Film: Rush Hour 3**. (2007) An assassination attempt sets off a chain of events. Lee and Cartel go off on a mission to banish Triad gangs in Paris. Action comedy sequel, starring Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker.

10.40 Film: Daredevil. (2003) Comic-book adventure, starring Ben Affleck.

12.40 Film: Election. (1999) **2.25 The Good Wife**. (R) **3.15 Hollyoaks**. (R) **5.15 Deal or No Deal**. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00 The Dog Rescuers**. (R) **10.30 The Thief Who Stole a Train**. (R) **11.15 Police Interceptors**. (R) **12.30 Ice Road Truckers**. (R) **1.30 Film: The Bridge at Remagen**. (1969) Second World War adventure, starring George Segal. **3.45 Film: Stone Cold**. (2005) Detective drama, starring Tom Selleck. **5.30 Film: Columbo: Old Fashioned Murder**. (1976) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk.

6.50 Longmire. New series. Crime drama, starring Robert Taylor as Wyoming sheriff Walt Longmire. Returning to duty after the death of his wife, Walt is drawn into a murder investigation.

7.40 NCIS: A Mind. (R) **7.30 Film: Mr Bean's Holiday**. (2007) **10.00 Celebrity Juice**. **10.50 Crazy Beaches**. **11.20 Educating Joey Essex**.

ITV2 **3.25 Britain's Got More Talent: Singers & Dancers**. **4.25 Film: Blood Diamond**. (2006) **5.15 Film: About a Boy**. (2002) **6.45 Film: Mr Bean's Holiday**. (2007) **10.00 Celebrity Juice**. **10.50 Crazy Beaches**. **11.20 Educating Joey Essex**.

ITV3 **3.50 Agatha Christie's Poirot**. **4.55 Inspector Morse**. **5.55 Rosemary & Thyme**. **8.00 Doc Martin**. **9.00 Endeavour**. **11.00 A Touch of Frost**.

ITV4 **3.15 Film: The Far Country**. (1954) **5.15 Film: The Battle of Midway**. Conclusion of the seafaring adventure, starring Ioan Gruffudd. Last in the series. **10.00 Film: Carlito's Way**. (1993)

E4 **4.00 How I Met Your Mother**. **5.00 2 Broke Girls**. **6.00 The Big Bang Theory**. **7.00 How I Met Your Mother**. **8.00 The Tomorrow People**. **9.00 Film: Lake Placid**. (1999) **10.40 Rude Tube**. **11.45 The Big Bang Theory**.

Film4 **2.55 Carry On Behind**. (1975) **4.40 Escape to Victory**. (1981) **7.00 Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events**. (2004) **9.00 Priest**. (2011) **10.45 Alien 3**. (1992)

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CHOICE**Prince Harry****Harry's South Pole Heroes**

ITV, 8pm

Prince Harry and his band of heroes are certainly braver than us – in fact watching him and the wounded servicemen and women from the comfort of our armchair with a warm cup of coffee leaves us suitably ashamed of ourselves. In this episode, the Walking with the Wounded South Pole Allied Challenge 2013 gets under way, and the teams prepare to ski for nine hours a day, hauling 80 kilos of kit in temperatures as low as -40C. But no amount of training could have prepared them for the frostbite, sores and altitude sickness.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast:** 7.25 Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The One Question. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** The Sport Relief Games Show. **3.15** Alex Against the Rock. **3.45** Deadly on a Mission: Pole to Pole. **4.15** Regional Programme. **4.45** Songs of Praise. **5.20** Pointless Celebrities. (R)
- 6.05 Blundings:** Connie plays matchmaker. **6.35 BBC News:** Regional News; Weather. **7.00 Countryside:** Ellie Harrison heads to the beaches of Norfolk, which suffered its biggest storm surge in 60 years in December. She also drops in at the RSPB's reserve in Snettisham. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. **8.00 Antiques Roadshow:** Fiona Bruce and the team visit Exeter Cathedral, where items include a table apparently used by Bonnie Prince Charlie and artwork painted by Edward VII as a child. **9.00 The Musketeers:** The quartet escort the queen to a forest pool renowned for its powers of fertility – but when an assassin strikes they escape to a convent, where Aramis meets a face from the past. **10.00 BBC News:** Regional News; Weather. **10.25 Match of the Day 2:** Tottenham Hotspur v Southampton. **11.25 Film:** *Butterfly on a Wheel*. (2007) Thriller, starring Pierce Brosnan. **12.55 Weatherview.** **1.00 BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.00 Film:** Angels One Five. (1953) **7.35 Mountain,** (R) **8.35** Counting Sheep. **9.00** Another Night for the Week Ahead. **9.30** *Gardener's World*. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.15** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **2.15** Ex-S. **2.45 Film:** *Know Where I'm Going!* (1945) **4.15** *Flog It!* (R) **5.00** Collectaholics. (R)
- 6.00 The Hairy Bikers:** Restoration Road Trip. Si King and Dave Myers help rebuild an early traction engine before learning how it revolutionised farming, and restore a rare barge once used to transport coal on Britain's canals. (R)
- 7.00 Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom:** The team splits up to search for tigers. Last in the series. (R)
- 8.00 Lambing Live: Farming Families:** New series. Kate Humble and Adam Henson revisit people featured in previous series.
- 9.00 Louie Theroux's LA Stories: City of Dogs:** New series. Different aspects of Los Angeles, beginning with the city's neglected and feral dogs.
- 10.00 Mock the Week Looks Back at Royals:** Another selection of material from the show's archives. (R)
- 10.30 Line of Duty:** Fleming remains determined to prove Denton had a role in the ambush. Last in the series. (R)
- 11.30 Film:** *London River*. (2009) Drama, with Brenda Blethyn. **12.55 Sign Zone:** *Countryside*. (R) **1.50** *Holby City*. (R) **2.50** *Silk*. (R) **3.50** This is BBC Two.

ITV

- 6.00 CITV:** Dino Dan. **6.10 Dino Dan,** (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter. **6.35** *Chewie*. **6.45** *Animals*. (R) **6.55** *Carnival*. **7.00** *Canimals*. (R) **7.10** *Om Nom Stories*. (R) **7.15** *Om Nom Stories*. (R) **7.20** *Sooty*. (R) **7.30** *Scrambled*. **9.25** *ITV News*; Weather. **9.30** *Murder*. (R) **10.30** *Dickinson's Real Deal*. (R) **11.25** *ITV News*; Weather. **11.35** *The Unforgettable Dudley Moore*. (R) **11.45** *Agatha Christie's Marple*. (R) **2.00** *The Crocodile Hunter Diaries*. (R) **2.25** *All Star Family Fortunes*. (R) **3.10** *River Monsters*. (R) **4.15** *Film:* *The Spy Who Loved Me*. (1977)
- 6.35 Regional Programme:** Weather.
- 6.45 ITV News:** Weather.
- 7.00 Catchphrase:** Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.
- 8.00 Harry's South Pole Heroes:** Part two of two. Prince Harry embarks on his expedition in the Antarctic with four injured British soldiers as part of the Walking with the Wounded South Pole Allied Challenge.
- 9.00 Mr Selfridge:** Harry is desperate to clear his name. Last in the series.
- 10.00 ITV News at Ten:** Weather.
- 10.15 You Saw Them Here First:** With Patsy Kensit, Mark Benton, David Threlfall, Tony Robinson and Kimberley Walsh. (R)
- 11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.** **12.15** *The Store*. **2.15** *The Jeremy Kyle Show USA*. (R) **3.45** *ITV Nightscreen*. **5.05** *The Jeremy Kyle Show*. (R)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.10 The Hoots,** (R) **6.35** *The Hoob*. (R) **7.00** *Freepost* on 4. **7.30** *Chewie*. **7.45** *Worms*. **7.55** *Carnival*. **8.00** *Everybody Loves Raymond*. (R) **8.30** *Frasier*. (R) **9.00** *Frasier*. (R) **9.30** *Sunday Brunch*. **12.35** *Secret Eaters*. (R) **1.35** *The Big Bang Theory*. (R) **2.05** *The Big Bang Theory*. (R) **2.35** *How I Met Your Mother*. **3.35** *The Simpsons*. (R) **4.05** *The Simpsons*. (R) **4.35** *Deal or No Deal*. **5.40** *Channel 4 News*.
- 6.10 Film:** *Rio*. (2011) Premiere. A domesticated bird gets lost in Rio de Janeiro, and has to learn to fly to get back to his owner. Animated comedy, with the voices of Jesse Eisenberg and Anne Hathaway.
- 6.35 The Million Pound Necklace: Inside Boodles:** Documentary following exclusive jewellers Boodles, as they launch their most expensive collection yet, created from a set of rare Colombian emeralds.
- 9.00 Film:** *The Tourist*. (2010) A woman tries to trick the police into thinking a tourist is her criminal lover with his appearance surgically changed. Romantic thriller, with Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie.
- 10.55 Film:** *Dogma*. (1999) A lapsed Catholic must stop two fallen angels returning to Heaven or risk the end of the world. Comedy fantasy, starring Matt Damon, Ben Affleck and Linda Fiorentino.
- 12.20 The Good Wife.** (R) **2.05** *The Hotel*. (R) **3.00** *Secret Removers*. A husband arranges a surprise for his wife. (R) **4.00** *SuperScrappers*. (R) **4.55** *Deal or No Deal*. (R) **5.50** *River Cottage Bites*. (R)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!:** *Peppa Pig*. **6.05** *Roary the Racing Car*. (R) **6.15** *Fifi and the Flowertots*. **6.25** *Bubble Guppies*. (R) **6.35** *The Mr Men Show*. (R) **6.50** *Clueless Closet*. (R) **7.00** *Milkshake! Box Pop*. (R) **7.10** *Roobarb and Custard Too*. (R) **7.25** *Bananas in Pyjamas*, (R) **7.30** *Make Way for Noddy*. (R) **7.40** *City of Friends*. (R) **7.50** *Mia Mao*, (R) **7.55** *Little Princess*. (R) **8.10** *Monkey*. (R) **8.15** *The Adventures of Botticelli* and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** *Angelina Ballerina*. (R) **8.40** *Rupert Bear*. (R) **8.50** *Toby's Travelling Circus*. (R) **9.00** *Benji Holly's Little Kingdom*. (R) **9.15** *Jelly Jammin'*. (R) **9.30** *Last Town*. (R) **10.00** *Power Rangers Super Samurai*. (R) **10.35** *Access*. **10.50** *Film:* *Arthur and the Invisibles*. (2006) **12.30** *Film:* *Hoodwinked*. (2005) **2.05** *Film:* *Zoom*. (2006) **3.50** *Film:* *The Witches*. (1990) **3.55** *News Weekend*. **5.40** *Film:* *The Great Escape*. (1963) **9.00 The First Great Escape:** Documentary examining an escape by British officers from the Holzminden PoW camp in July 1918 that inspired the famous breakout from Stalag Luft III in March 1944.
- 10.00 The Great Escape:** Revealed. The true story of the famous PoW breakout.
- 11.00 Film:** *A Bridge Too Far*. (1977) Fact-based drama re-telling the Second World War campaign to capture a series of strategically important bridges. Starring Dirk Bogarde.
- 2.25 SuperCasino.** **3.10** *Dangerous Drivers*. (School) **4.00** *Wildlife SOS*. (R) **4.20** *Make It Big*. (R) **4.50** *The Funky Valley Show*. (R) **5.00** *Angels of Jarm*. (R) **5.10** *Hana's Helpings*. (R) **5.20** *Angels of Jarm*.

DIGITAL

- BBC Three**
- 7.00 The Voice UK** **8.55** *The Voice* UK Results. **9.30** *Russell Howard's Good News*. **10.00** *Family Guy*. **10.45** *Bluestone 42*. **11.15** *American Dad!*
- BBC Four**
- 7.00 Magnificent Machines:** The Golden Age of the British Sports Car. **8.00** *Mark Lawton talks to Joanna Trapattoni*. **9.00** *Martin Amis' England*. **10.00** *Some Football Managers with Jokes*. **10.30** *Film:* *You Will Be My Son* (2011)
- ITV2**
- 2.15 Film:** *Honey* (2003) **4.10** *Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway*
- 7.00 Film:** *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword* (2017) **7.50** *Tomb of the Dragon Emperor* (2008)
- 7.50 Film:** *Whip It* (2009) **10.00** *The Only Way Is Essex* **10.50** *Party Wright Around the World* **11.50** *The Big Reunion* 2014
- ITV3**
- 3.40 Rosemary & Thyme** **4.45** *A Touch of Frost*. **7.00** *Agatha Christie's Poirot* **9.00** *Film:* *Mamma Mia!* (2008) Musical comedy, starring Meryl Streep. **11.15** *Cracker*
- ITV4**
- 3.05 Film:** *Kelly's Heroes* (1970) **6.00 Storage Wars** **8.00** *Premiership Rugby Union* **9.00** *Film:* *Get Carter* (1971) **11.20** *Hell on Wheels*
- E4**
- 3.30 The Tomorrow People** **4.30** *Troy: Best Bits* **5.35** *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* **6.05** *The Big Bang Theory*
- 8.00 Film:** *Dr Dolittle* (1998) **9.40** *The Big Bang Theory* **10.10** *How I Met Your Mother* **10.40** *My Mad Diary* **11.45** *Rules of Engagement*
- Film4**
- 2.35 Only You** (1994) **4.45** *27 Dresses* (2008) **6.55** *The Truman Show* (1998) **9.00** *This Is England* (2006) **11.05** *Silent House* (2011)

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A recent Radio 4 broadcast explored the view of 'Your whole life is lived through your teeth'. The concept for many is true – though few comprehend how teeth impact our day-to-day lives, and in particular, the issues that arise when they begin to fail. In its conclusion, the broadcast acknowledged the sometime catastrophic effects of tooth trouble on diet, lifestyle and self-worth. The effervescent Ann Skitt recently decided to ditch her old, troublesome dentures when her teeth became an embarrassment and get a brand new smile. Is this the right time for you to do the same?

Ann's smile puts her in top gear

ANN Skitt retrieves her bike from the garage, deftly fixes a slipped chain, and is ready "to go anywhere."

By her own confession it's an antique with a capacious, black leather-cloth saddlebag (no longer manufactured) and just three Sturmey-Archer gears. For nearly 20 years it's been a faithful companion and her primary source of transport.

Her enthusiasm to get on the saddle belies her years. "I don't drive, but cycle everywhere I can," she says.

A young-at-heart 74-year-old, she oozes charisma and charm, still goes to the gym "when she needs to shed a few pounds" and is the life and soul of the party at her local Young At Heart Club where she is a volunteer worker.

"I retired at 60, but I always have to be doing something. The club has some elderly people who never really see anyone from week to week and I love helping. We do lunches and have a game of bingo and a laugh," she adds.

She admits to constantly making choices to live life to the limit and indulging herself whenever she

fancies a new look as a popular hairdressers' model at Wolverhampton's award-winning Ultimate Hairdressing salon.

"I love meeting the students and they treat me lovely," she says.

It's hard to imagine that his retired assembly worker, who completed 45 years' service at Willenhall's famous Josiah Parkes & Sons lock manufacturers, could ever be knocked back. But failing teeth "became an embarrassment," she recalls.

Plucked up the courage

"My remaining bottom teeth were terribly discoloured and my partial lower denture was unstable. You could never eat anything like nuts and I was always so conscious of the way they looked.

"If I cooked lamb chops or a steak I'd struggle to eat it – would take me ages, but I can eat anything now," she says with a smile.

Ann called time on her long-standing dental problems after reading an article in her local newspaper about Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) and his work as principal at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.

"I had a couple of articles and kept them for nearly a year before I plucked up courage to see Steve. I knew

exactly what I wanted and was happy to put up with a bit of discomfort to get there," she says.

With four implants in her upper and four in the lower jaw to secure implant-retained over-dentures, Ann now has a perfect smile and functional teeth.

"I love my teeth and they have given me so much more confidence. You don't realise how having bad teeth affect until you have treatment like this and you get the confidence back. The whole shape of my mouth has changed."

Her teeth were hand-crafted on the premises at the Denture Clinic and implant surgery was carried out by Jonathon Pugh BDS MSc (Implant Dentistry), principal of Total Implant Solutions in Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton.

Steven says: "Ann's particular choice was to go down the implant-retained denture route which ensures total stabilisation and it works brilliantly for her."

"But implants are not necessarily for everyone and quality, traditional dentures can often be an excellent option. We also do suction dentures, where tiny valve operated diaphragms are fitted into the prosthesis and create a vacuum effect against the gums."

Adds Ann: "Both Steve and Jon were lovely with me. I've told all my friends they need to see them too."

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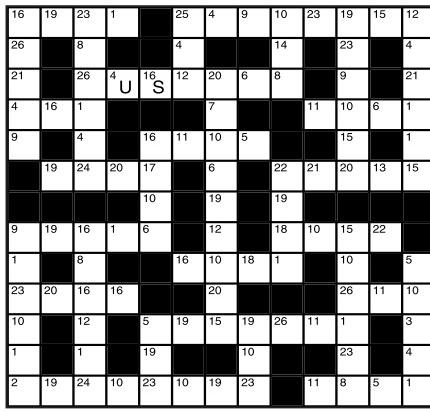


Brain Gym

No.265

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
G	Y	M	L	I	T	Q	P	F	C	J	X	R
E	U	Z	O	K	A	D	W	B	H	S	V	N
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

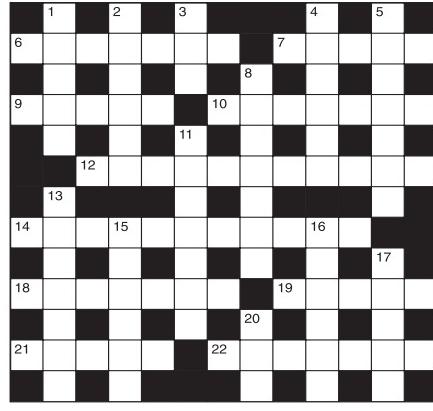
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. He decides to make a rarebit (7)
- 7. Soft melodies for couples (5)
- 9. Appears to make sound joints (5)
- 10. He's nice and foreign (7)
- 12. Intelligence in the making (11)
- 14. It won't keep you fully occupied (4-4,3)
- 18. One needs a couple of rings to get this number (7)
- 19. Turner writes articles in French and English (5)
- 21. Separate verse form (5)
- 22. His initial confusion was amusing (7)

Down

- 1. In a small way you'll find me prepared to fight (5)
- 2. He may fly from Marian (6)
- 3. Carve a name, we hear (3)
- 4. Edible wood? (6)
- 5. Don't stop, although a person's upset (5,2)
- 8. My niche, a cleft in a cliff? (7)
- 11. A fir-cone, perhaps, seen in the wood (7)
- 13. Greetings that affect us least (7)
- 15. I tried a more orderly arrangement (6)
- 16. A speaker who is skilled at splitting alternatives (6)
- 17. What he does is appropriate (5)
- 20. Fit for a little physical training (3)



Quick Clues:

Across

- 6. Watery (7)
- 7. Narrative (5)
- 9. Devoutness (5)
- 10. Advent (7)
- 12. Incitement (11)
- 14. Disbelief (11)
- 18. Cleanness (7)
- 19. Amusing (5)
- 21. Confuse (5)
- 22. Aid (7)

Down

- 1. Fit out (5)
- 2. Improved (6)
- 3. Owing (3)
- 4. Rigorous (6)
- 5. Producer (7)
- 8. Small thorn (7)
- 11. Greed (7)
- 13. Contain (7)
- 15. Seldom (6)
- 16. Three times (6)
- 17. Mock (5)
- 20. Shed (3)

Sudoku

1	3		6		2			
8	7	5	4			6		
		8	1					
9	5	1						
8	4	3	7	6				
			5	1	9			
		6						
9	8	4	7	3	1			
2			6	7				

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

7	6	3	1	9	8	2	5	4
4	9	2	3	6	5	1	7	8
8	5	1	2	4	7	6	3	9
9	1	6	5	3	2	8	4	7
5	4	8	9	7	6	3	2	1
3	2	7	4	8	1	5	9	6
1	3	9	6	2	4	7	8	5
6	8	4	7	5	3	9	1	2
2	7	5	8	1	9	4	6	3

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Detonation; 7 Aroma; 8 Toddler; 10 Long shot; 11 Harp; 13 Recipe; 15 Damsel; 17 Aces; 18 Reserved; 21 Eamest; 22 Dense; 23 By and large; Down: 1 Dancer; 2 Transient; 3 Nostalgia; 4 Tarn; 5 Orleander; 6 Tailor-made; 9 Rose ladder; 12 Lavender; 14 Clearly; 1 Particular; 7 Aired; 8 Special; 10 Dismayed; 11 Ring; 13 Employ; 15 Street; 17 Drop; 18 Well-do-to; 21 Diploma; 22 Avers; 23 Prospectus; Down: 1 Parts; 2 Radiator; 3 Instep; 4 Used; 5 Asinine; 6 Hard-headed; 9 Lighthouse; 12 Stalwart; 14 Prosper; 16 Relate; 19 Omens; 20 Toss.

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Detached five-bedroom house with good views



A DETACHED five-bedroomed home in Harborne Road, Warley Woods, is for sale through Derek Spires Estate Agents at £440,000.

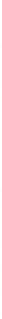
With gas central heating and majority double glazing, it has a porch, entrance hall, lounge. There is a conservatory with French doors to the garden, dining room and French doors to the conservatory, pantry, cloakroom and kitchen/breakfast room incorporating a four-burner gas hob with extractor hood over and integrated oven and ceramic floor tiling. There is also a lobby, integral side garage to the ground floor.

Upstairs is an en suite master bedroom with walk-in wardrobe, bedroom two which has extensive views, three further bedrooms and a bathroom with a white suite including a Jacuzzi panelled bath.

Contact Derek Spires agents on 0121420 4646 or visit the www.derekspiresandco.com website.



An impressive home in West Bromwich



AN IMPRESSIVE three-storey six-bedroomed detached property in Heath Lane, West Bromwich, is for sale through Bartrams at £299,950.

With central heating and majority double glazing, it has a porch, entrance hall, two reception rooms, conservatory, kitchen, walk-in pantry, utility, and guest bathroom.

There is a first-floor landing with WC and bathroom and three bedrooms, second floor with bathroom/wetroom and three bedrooms. There is a large rear garden with a paved patio, lawn, shed, and access to front with off-road parking for three to four cars and a garage. Contact Bartrams on 0121 601 9370 or visit the www.bartrams.com website.



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Powell Avenue

- * Mid terraced house
- * Living room
- * Kitchen/Dining room
- * Two bedrooms
- * Garage in nearby block

Offers in the region of £124,950



Quinton Road West

- * Semi detached house
- * Recently modernised
- * Re-fitted kitchen/dining room
- * Re-fitted bathroom
- * Three bedrooms

Offers in the region of £134,950



Oldbury Oldacre Road

- * Terraced House
- * Through living room comprising living and dining area
- * Bathroom and separate wc
- * Three bedrooms
- * Rear garden

Offers in the region of £109,950



Manor Lane
Offers in the region of £324,950



Oldbury Apsley Road

- * Semi-detached house
- * Good sized plot
- * Garage
- * Three bedrooms
- * Two reception rooms
- * No chain

Offers in the region of £159,950



Oldbury Plot 3 Site of 46 George Road

- * Link detached bungalow
- * Two parking spaces
- * Two bedrooms
- * L Shaped lounge/dining area
- * Quality fitted kitchen with host of appliances
- * Luxury bathroom with shower over bath
- * Gas boiler heating radiators

* EPC = C
£185,000



Yardley Close

- * Extended semi detached house
- * Four bedrooms
- * Through living room
- * Rear Garden

EPC = tbc
Offers in the region of £109,950



Sunnybank Road

- * Superior detached family house
- * Four bedrooms
- * Lounge & Dining room
- * Fitted kitchen/breakfast room
- * Fitted cloakroom
- * Well appointed bathroom & ensuite
- * Enclosed gardens & large garage
- * EPC = B

£275,000



69, 69A & 69B Long Lane & 1 Parade Buildings

Nimmins Road

- * Investment for sale
- * Two lock-up shops
- * Two first floor flats
- * Total rental income £13,900 pa
- * Full details contact agents 0121 422 4011 (ref MS)

EPC Ratings: 69 (E), 69A (D), 69B (D), 1 Parade Buildings (C)

Offers in the region of £155,000



16 Woodland Road

- * Traditional 3 bedroom house
- * Neutral finish/decor
- * 2 Living rooms
- * Bathroom with shower
- * UPVC DG windows & Gas CH
- * Location convenient for nearby schools
- * EPC=E

Monthly rent of £650+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.



324 Hagley Road

- * 2 double bedroom House
- * FANTASTIC LOCATION!
- * Ideal for nearby popular Schools
- * 2 reception rooms (both with new carpets)
- * Spacious kitchen with some appliances
- * GCH & DG to most windows
- * Available now
- * EPC=D

Monthly rent of £525+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.



5 Mill Road

- * Semi-detached house
- * 2 bedrooms (1 with wardrobes)
- * Fitted kitchen with some appliances
- * Bathroom with shower over bath
- * DG to most windows & Gas CH
- * EPC=D * MUST VIEW!
- * Available 1 April

Monthly rent of £525+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.



101 Olive Lane

- * Semi detached house
- * Two Bedrooms
- * Nice living room with sliding doors to garden
- * Kitchen with oven, hob, hood
- * Bathrooms with shower over bath
- * DG to most windows & Gas CH
- * EPC=D * MUST VIEW!
- * Available 1 April

Monthly rent of £525+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.



33 Spinners End Drive

- * Ground floor flat *REDUCED RENT*
- * Double bedroom with fitted wardrobe
- * Kitchen with host of appliances
- * White bathroom suite with shower
- * Convenient location * Modern neutral finish * Nice carpets, electric heating & DGW * Allocated car space * EPC=D

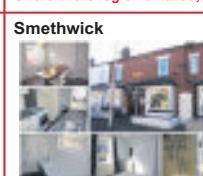
Monthly rent of £353+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.



70 Tennal Road

- * 3 bedroom semi-detached house
- * Popular location in Harborne
- * modern fitted kitchen with oven & hob
- * Stylish bathroom with separate shower cubicle * UPVC DGW & Gas CH
- * Off road car-parking & garden
- * Available NOW! *MUST VIEW! EPC=D

Monthly rent of £75+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.



53 Wattis Road

- * Lovely 2 bedroom part-furnished house
- * Both bedrooms are double
- * Great location for commuting into City
- * Two reception rooms
- * Kitchen with new cooker
- * Bathroom with shower
- * GCH & DGW * Garden * EPC=D

Monthly rent of £550+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.



16 Woodland Road

- * Traditional 3 bedroom house
- * Neutral finish/decor
- * 2 Living rooms
- * Bathroom with shower
- * UPVC DG windows & Gas CH
- * Location convenient for nearby schools
- * EPC=E

Monthly rent of £650+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Attractively presented two-bedroomed home



SET on the Fibblersley and Willenhall border, this modern two-bedroomed semi-detached home in Bloom Close, Willenhall lies in a cul-de-sac location on a development by Alexander Homes. It is for sale through Connells at £105,000.

It has an entrance hall with stairs to the landing, ground-floor WC, lounge, conservatory, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. There are pleasant gardens and off-road parking.

For further information contact



Glorious gardens are a feature at this cottage



A CAPTIVATING detached cottage residence and a prominent local landmark in Sandy Lane, Brewood, stands on an impressive plot close to the exclusive village centre.

It is for sale through Bartlams at £575,000.

There is a sitting room with an inglenook fireplace and wall and ceiling beams, a rear lobby with a cloakroom and cellar/utility, a large lounge area with an Adam-style fireplace and large archways leading to further seating and music room areas, a breakfast kitchen with cream units and wood-effect working surfaces. There is also a formal dining room with a ceiling beam and a fireplace. Upstairs are six bedrooms – three interlink – and two bathrooms. Extensive private gardens include a walled courtyard with a pool.

For further information contact Bartlams on 01902 762900.



Hicks Hadley

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0121 585 6667

Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



NEW

HALESOWEN, Bromsgrove Road £875 ppcm - Fees Located in the desirable area of Romsley. This unfurnished semi-detached house features gas central heating, modern and spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, loft space, front & rear gardens, garage, fantastic views. Viewing strongly recommended. EPC: E



NEW

HALESOWEN, Newton Court £750 ppcm - Fees Recently converted 3 bedroom 1st floor apartment finished to an extremely high standard and centrally located with commuter links to Halesowen and Birmingham. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, both with fitted wardrobes, 2 bathrooms, 1 single bedroom, secondary glazing throughout. Allocated parking. Viewings recommended. EPC: C



BRIERLEY HILL, Golden Cross Way £750 ppcm - Fees A furnished detached house close to Brierley Hill Town Centre. Featuring a downstairs w.c., living/dining room, fitted kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, master bedroom with en suite shower room, house bathroom. Benefits also include gas central heating, front and rear gardens, garage. Convenient location for Merry Hill. Inspection strongly recommended. EPC: C



NEW

CRADLEY HEATH, Dorothy Adams Close £975 ppcm - Fees An unfurnished modern three storey townhouse, close to shops and rail links, briefly comprising of: three bedrooms, downstairs wc, lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, master bedroom with en-suite and dressing area, house bathroom with shower, garage and driveway, rear garden. Available immediately. EPC: C



NEW

HALESOWEN, Melbourne Road £950 ppcm - Fees A well presented end terrace property close to Halesowen Town Centre and Halesowen College. This 3 bedroom property features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with wooden work surfaces, downstairs bathroom with separate shower, double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden, and on road parking. Viewing highly recommended to appreciate property. EPC: B/C



BIRMINGHAM, City Heights £650 ppcm - Fees A furnished 2nd floor apartment in the centre of Birmingham. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, open plan lounge/kitchen, electric storage heating, bathroom with shower, parking space, close to Snow Hill Train Station and walking distance to the city centre. Not to be missed. EPC: C



NEW PRICE

HALESOWEN, Holt Road £625 ppcm - Fees 2 MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! An immaculately presented mid terraced property in a convenient location for shops, bus and railway links. The property features a large lounge, dining room, luxury refitted shower room, 2 double bedrooms, and 2 single loft rooms, gas central heating, double glazing, small rear court yard garden, on road parking. EPC: D



NEW PRICE

HALESOWEN, Holt Road £575 ppcm - Fees A well presented mid terrace property close to local shops. This house features 3 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen with white goods, bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front & rear gardens, garage with driveway. Available 1/4/13. EPC: D



NEW

HALESOWEN, Victoria Road £575 ppcm - Fees A large unfurnished end terrace house, close to local shops and transport links, briefly featuring 4 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs w.c. & bathroom with shower, gas central heating, driveway parking. EPC: D



NEW

HALESOWEN, The Forge £550 ppcm - Fees Fully furnished to suit. A modern 2 bedroom semi detached property situated in a quiet cul de sac and within walking distance to Cradley Heath Train Station, bus links and shops. Featuring a great living room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, private rear garden, driveway, gas central heating. EPC: C



ROWLEY REGIS, Dudley Road £550 ppcm - Fees

A fantastic opportunity to rent this stunning cottage which has many features. Featuring 2 good size bedrooms, 2 spacious lounges, modern kitchen with appliances, conservatory, house bathroom with shower, mature rear garden, parking available, a must see property! EPC: D



NEW

HALESOWEN, The Infeld £550 ppcm - Fees Stunning and modern on a well sought after new estate. This top floor apartment features 2 bedrooms, master with fitted wardrobes, large lounge with real dark wood flooring, superb high spec kitchen with built-in fridge/freezer and washer/dryer, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking. Not to be missed. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Cavalier Drive £525 ppcm - Fees

Located within walking distance of central Halesowen. This modern unfurnished 3rd floor apartment, briefly comprising of: spacious living room with a door leading to your own balcony, fitted kitchen with white goods, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, communal gardens, allocated parking space. EPC: D



NEW

HALESOWEN, Albany Court £475 ppcm - Fees An unfurnished ground floor flat in a sought after location. Featuring 2 large double bedrooms, large living room, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower. Other benefits include electric storage heating, communal gardens, parking. Available 1/2/04/14. EPC: TBC



NEW

BRIERLEY HILL, Foxdale Drive £475 ppcm - Fees This unfurnished and terraced property is in close proximity to both Merry Hill Shopping Centre and Brierley Hill. The House comprises of 1 double bedroom with fitted wardrobes and 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with shower, nice sized lounge, fitted kitchen, allocated parking, small front garden. EPC: C



NEW

CRADLEY HEATH, Unit Drive £450 ppcm - Fees Located in a quiet and popular residential area, ideal for walking into Cradley Heath and local train station. This modern unfurnished 1st floor apartment, briefly comprising of: double bedroom, large lounge and feature fireplace, ensuite bathroom with shower, modern kitchen with washer/dryer. EPC: C



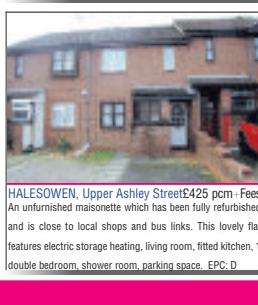
NEW PRICE

CRADLEY HEATH, Victoria Gardens £425 ppcm - Fees A fantastic 1 bedroom 1st floor apartment which has just been fully refurbished to a high standard. Large dual aspect lounge, fully fitted kitchen with appliances, bathroom with shower, electric heating, allocated parking. This property is ready to go! EPC: C



NEW

CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street £425 ppcm - Fees An unfurnished ground floor apartment on a popular development, close to Old Hill High Street and the local Train Station. The property features: living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits include electric storage heating, allocated parking space. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Upper Ashley Street £425 ppcm - Fees

An unfurnished maisonette which has been fully refurbished and is close to local shops and bus links. This lovely flat features electric storage heating, living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, shower room, parking space. EPC: D



NEW

HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY £395 ppcm - Fees Quiet, desirable location. An unfurnished 1st floor apartment which is well presented throughout, within walking distance to Cradley Heath train station, featuring a modern fitted kitchen with smallridge, light and airy lounge, bathroom with shower, 1 bedroom with built in wardrobes, communal drying area. EPC: F



NEW PRICE

DUDLEY, Austin House £355 ppcm - Fees Modern re-furbished ground floor flat available, communal entrance, open plan lounge with kitchen, double bedroom and shower room. Electric storage heaters, newly fitted carpet, property alarmed, allocated parking, security light. EPC: D



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OAK ROAD
REDUCED
£199,950 QUINTON 0121 4217766

- Traditional Bay Fronted Link Detached Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Family Bathroom W/c
- Benefiting From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Side Garage Driveway Rear Garden

PRIMROSE WOODS
REDUCED
£190,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766

- Modern Detached Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge Conservatory Fitted Kitchen Cloakroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Shower Room
- Garage Driveway Front and Rear Gardens
- Internal Viewing Highly Recommended

CASTLE ROAD WEST
NEW
£189,950 QUINTON 0121 4217766

- Extended Semi Detached Property Awaiting EPC Rating
- Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen Downstairs Shower Room
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Drive To Front Garden To The Rear
- Viewing Recommended No Upward Chain

QUINTON,
NEW
£167,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766

- Immaculate Bay Fronted Semi Detached Property Awaiting EPC Rating
- Lounge Kitchen-Dining Room
- Three Bedrooms Shower Room
- Benefiting From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Block Paved Driveway Large Rear Garden Garage To The Rear

OLDBURY
REDUCED
£160,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766

- Impressive Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E
- Lounge Dining Kitchen Cloakroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Front Rear and Side Gardens Garage and Drive
- Internal Viewing Recommended No Upward Chain



HIGH STREET
£135,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766

- Period End Terrace Property EPC Rating E
- Lounge Fitted Kitchen Conservatory
- Two bedrooms Shower Room
- Gardens To The Front and Rear
- Internal Viewing Highly Recommended

SIMMONS DRIVE
NEW
£125,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766

- Well Presented Mid Terrace Property
- Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Double Glazing Gas Central Heating System
- Driveway To The Front Garden To The Rear
- Internal Viewing Recommended To Appreciate Accommodation

MANOR ROAD
NEW
£125,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766

- Modern Detached Bungalow EPC Rating C
- Lounge Kitchen Two Bedrooms Bathroom
- Four Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Gas Central Heating System Double Glazing
- Front and Rear Gardens

ELIZABETH CRESCENT
NEW
£125,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen
- Four Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Gas Central Heating System Double Glazing
- Front and Rear Gardens

AMBLESIDE
£125,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766

- Semi Detached Property Awaiting EPC Rating
- Lounge Kitchen-Dining Room
- Three Bedrooms Family Bathroom W/c
- Benefits From a Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Driveway garden To The Rear Garage En-bloc



FIELD LANE
NEW
£110,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating C
- Through Lounge Kitchen Utility Area
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Block Paved Frontage Garden To The Rear
- Property Benefits From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing

OX LEASOW
REDUCED
£100,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766

- Spacious Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Kitchen-Diner Cloakroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Family bathroom W/c
- Garage and Drive To The Front
- Garden To The Rear Of The Property

NOTICE OF OFFER
381 West Boulevard Quinton B32 2PP.

We advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £97,000. Any persons wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts.

YOUR MOVE, 536 Hagley Road West, Quinton (Oldbury) B68 0BZ. Telephone Number: 0121 4217766.

GRAZE BROCK CROFT
REDUCED
£90,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Enclosed Porch Lounge Kitchen-Diner
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Gardens To The Front and Rear
- Cul-de-sac Location

DAVENTRY GROVE
NEW
£89,950 QUINTON 0121 4217766

- Spacious Second Floor Apartment Awaiting EPC
- Through Lounge Dining Room Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms Separate W/c
- Communal Gardens
- Benefits From No Upward Chain



GLYNN FARM ROAD
NEW
£700 pcm QUINTON 0121 4217766

- Semi Detached Property
- Ground Floor Flat
- Parking To The Rear
- Awaiting EPC Rating

GLYNN ROAD
LET Similar Properties Required
£650 pcm QUINTON 0121 4217766

- Traditional Semi Detached Property
- Lounge Kitchen Utility Area
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Driveway To The Front Garden To The Rear
- EPC Rating E

DAVENTRY GROVE
LET Similar Properties Required
£500 PCM QUINTON 0121 4217766

- Ground Floor Flat
- Lounge Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms Bathroom
- Communal Gardens
- EPC=C

JIGGINS LANE
LET Similar Properties Required
£540 pcm QUINTON 0121 4217766

- Mid Terrace Property
- Lounge Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Front and Rear Gardens
- EPC Rating C

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CLAPGATE LANE
TO LET
£595 PCM QUINTON 0121 4217766

- Mid Terrace Property Fully Refurbished
- Lounge Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Gardens To The Front And Rear
- EPC=D

RIDGACRE ROAD
TO LET
£590 PCM QUINTON 0121 4217766

- Semi Detached Property
- Two Reception Rooms Kitchen Utility
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Front And Rear Gardens
- EPC=E

WOODGATE
TO LET
£525 PCM QUINTON 0121 4217766

- Large Double Bedroom Bathroom W/c
- Allocated Parking Area
- Awaiting EPC Rating

ROWLEY REGIS
NEW
£450pcm QUINTON 0121 4217766

- Modern Style Apartment
- Open Plan Living Room Fitted Kitchen
- Large Double Bedroom Bathroom W/c
- Allocated Parking Area
- Awaiting EPC Rating

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Offers Over £275,000

Detached house offering lounge, kitchen/diner, utility, WC, bedroom with en-suite, three further bedrooms and family bathroom. Halesowen.

EPC B



£150,000

This semi detached property situated in the heart of Halesowen comprises lounge, two reception rooms, kitchen, three bedrooms and garage. Halesowen.

Awaiting EPC



£120,000

This four bedroom terraced house comprises lounge, two reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom and rear garden. Halesowen.

Awaiting EPC



£120,000

A four bedroom semi detached house comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, WC, drive/carport, front and rear gardens. Halesowen.

EPC E



Offers Over £110,000

Convenient for motorway this property comprises lounge/diner, kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom and rear garden. Halesowen.

EPC E



£75,000

This traditional mid terraced property comprises lounge, three bedrooms and rear garden. Halesowen.

EPC D



Offers Over £170,000

A detached bungalow comprising lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and family bathroom. Halesowen.

EPC D



£120,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, family bathroom and rear garden.

Awaiting EPC



OIEO £110,000

End terraced two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen, conservatory, bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

NEW

Awaiting EPC



OIEO £110,000

Mid terraced, well presented, two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, loft space and allocated parking.

NEW

Awaiting EPC



OIEO £100,000

Semi detached two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, front and rear gardens and driveway.

NEW

Awaiting EPC



Offers Over £100,000

Terraced two bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, rear garden and allocated parking.

Awaiting EPC



£90,000

Semi detached two bedroom property comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom with separate WC, front and rear gardens, driveway and garage.

EPC E



Offers Over £80,000

Mid terraced three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs WC, upstairs bathroom and rear garden.

EPC D

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Celebrating awards success

Motability customers in and around Dudley can be sure of receiving outstanding customer service from local dealer Dudley Motor Company as it celebrates winning a regional award for its work with the car scheme.

The accolade is part of a new programme of awards to reward Motability dealerships which provide outstanding customer service in their area.

The new Dealer Awards programme is designed to ensure all Motability customers receive exemplary customer service across the dealer network.

The awards are judged on how a dealer delivers the scheme to customers, which is assessed by customer feedback and reviews of their Motability performance.

All winners of the quarterly awards are automatically entered into the new national, annual awards which were held for the first time in January 2014.

Peter Wilson, general manager – dealer relations at Motability Operations, explains: "As the 'shop-front' of the Motability scheme, and in many cases the first contact point for our customers, the focus of these awards is to thank our dealer partners for providing an ongoing positive customer service experience."

"Our customers continually rate the service they receive at the dealership highly but there's always room for improvement and opportunities to learn from those who are doing it really well, like Dudley Motor Company. Many congratulations to them on their award win."

Celebrating the Motability Dealer Award win, Tony Lister from Dud-

ley Motor Company, said: "We are pleased and proud to win this Motability Dealer Award."

"Motability is renowned for its high standards and Dudley Motor Company is thrilled to be recognised for our dedication to working in partnership with Motability."

Anyone who receives the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance, the Enhanced Rate of the Mobility Component of Personal Independence Payment or the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement can exchange the weekly payment to lease a new car through Motability. Insurance, servicing, RAC breakdown assistance and replacement tyres are included in the cost of the lease.

For more information about the Motability scheme contact Tony Lister on 01384 454100 or visit the website dudleymotorco.co.uk

Big savings on Fiat models

Fiat customers are being offered the opportunity to say 'No' to a deposit and 'No' to the first three monthly PCP repayments, so all they have to do is sign and drive off in a new Panda or Punto complete with its new '14' registration number.

Until March 24, Fiat is introducing a new customer saving and three-month PCP repayment holiday which results in an extra £500 saving to buyers of a new Pandas and Puntos.

With the Fiat Panda 1.2 Pop, for example, this initiative is in addition to the £1,450 savings already on offer, resulting in a total saving to the customer of £1,950. The remaining 44 repayments would be just £107.26 (representative

3.8 per cent APR) with an optional final repayment £3,062 due in March 2018.

The Fiat Punto 1.2 Pop now offers total savings amounting to £2,455 with monthly repayments of just £129.33 (representative 4.2 per cent APR) plus an optional final repayment.

Alternatively, customers also have the option of foregoing the deposit contribution and repayment holiday and instead using the £500 Fiat contribution towards their monthly repayments, resulting in a deposit of just £98 and 47 repayments of £98 for the Fiat Panda 1.2 Pop (plus optional final repayment) or a £118 deposit and 47 monthly repayments of £118 for the F Punto 1.2 Pop (plus optional final repayment).

The Fiat 'Say No' sales event is open to all retail customers subject to certain terms and conditions. The offer

isn't limited to the examples given – other versions of the Panda and Punto are available as part of the initiative.

Kate McLaren, senior brand manager Fiat UK, said: "We believe being able to put a brand new fully-warranted Fiat Panda or Punto on the driveway, without having to stump up a deposit and with very affordable monthly repayments, offers customers huge peace of mind at a time when household budgets are stretched."

The five-door Fiat Panda is the second-best selling car in its segment in Europe, behind the Fiat 500, and is a practical, efficient and stylish city car.

The Punto offers even more space and comfort, as well as the option of a sporty three-door hatchback, while retaining the efficiency and affordable stylishness which Fiat is synonymous with.



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www.cradleyheathmotorco.co.uk

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FIAT PUNTO 1.2 DYNAMIC 07 Reg, 5-dr, Grey, Air Con, Alloys, 49k, FSH.....	£3695
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Kia refreshes best budget 4x4 - popular Kia Sportage

It's easy to believe for a moment that the market for compact SUVs hasn't changed all that much in the last ten years, but it's now radically different and the biggest beneficiary of these changes have been Kia, and more specifically its Sportage. That car's been fettled and refreshed now and still looks the best budget 4x4 not a whole lot of money can buy.

As before, you get a choice of four powerplants. There are 1.7 or 2.0-litre common-rail diesels with 113 and 134bhp respectively - or 1.6 and 2.0-litre petrols packing 138 and 161bhp.

Performance is similar with the 2.0-litre units as both manage the 0-62mph trial in under 11s with the manual gearbox installed. The entry level cars have front wheel-drive, with upper spec models getting all-wheel traction.

The Sportage uses a part-time all-wheel-drive system which sends 100 per cent of power to the front wheels unless slippage is detected and it's automatically diverted to the rear. There's a Lock Mode for off-road driving which splits the available power 50/50 between the front and rear wheels, but it only operates below 25mph. All Sportage models have Hillstart Assist Control to help with uphill getaways and Downhill Brake Control to provide reassurance on steep descents.

The latest car features Kia's Flex Steer system on selected models. This allows the driver to choose between three different levels of power assistance according to preference and where the car is being driven. 'Comfort' mode provides increased help for parking or manoeuvring in tight areas, for example, while 'Sport' lessens the assistance for increased feel and stability at higher speeds. There is also a 'Normal' setting. In addition to this, the windscreen glass has been modified to reduce the amount of noise entering the cabin.

Otherwise, it's still as practical as ever. It just feels a little better built. The generous dimensions of the Sportage are carried over. There's a substantial boot measuring in at 564-litres when the rear seats are occupied - or 1,353-litres when they're folded down. Storage space inside the Sportage includes a six-litre centre console bin, large door pockets and a glovebox that's air-conditioned on some models.

Variants

Prices kick off at around £17,500, which keeps things real and Kia has done a spot of tinkering with the mix of the model line-up. Two additional variants at the top and bottom have been added to the team sheet to further broaden the appeal to customers - an all-wheel drive 2.0 CRDi at entry level and the 1.7 CRDi turbodiesel is now an option on the top spec two-wheel drive model. The 1.6-litre direct-injection petrol unit and 1.7-litre turbodiesel made their debuts in the Sportage and remain the mainstays of the range in the UK.

Equipment levels have also been subtly boosted across the range.

The best-performing Sportage from an economy and emissions perspective is the front-wheel drive 1.7 CRDi diesel which manages 54.3mpg and 135g/km. That's pretty good going. Should you choose petrol power, the 1.6 GDI powertrain returns a combined fuel figure of 44.1mpg and emissions of 149g/km. Should you want an all-wheel drive 2.0-litre diesel, you're looking at 49.6mpg and 149g/km which is very good.

Beware opting for the automatic version though, as this puts a bit of a dent into the efficiency metrics at 40.9mpg and 179g/km.

Like the rest of the Kia range, the Sportage is sold with the excellent seven-year or 100,000-mile warranty. It is fully transferable should the car be sold before the time or mileage limits have been reached. Fixed cost servicing also brings additional peace of mind via the Kia Care-3 and Care-3 Plus servicing package, offering retail customers inflation-proof servicing for the first three or five years. Again, all packages cover the car, not the owner, so are transferable should the vehicle be sold.



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Official Chevrolet fuel consumption figures for Cruze 1.7 VCDI: Urban 41.5, Extra-Urban 61.4, Combined 52.3, CO₂ 125 g/km; Spark 1.2 LTZ (mpg): Urban 42.8, Extra-Urban 68.9, Combined 56.5, CO₂ 118 g/km; Trax range: Urban: 34.4-52.3, Extra-Urban: 51.3-70.6, Combined - 43.4-62.7. CO₂ Emissions 120-153g/km. Official EU-Regulated Test Data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style.

Pictures for illustration purposes only. Models shown are a Chevrolet Cruze LS Hatchback and Estate, featuring metallic paint at an extra cost of £470 and Chevrolet Spark 1.2 LTZ and a Chevrolet Trax 1.6 LS which feature metallic paint at an extra cost of £425. *Saving shown against manufacturers list price whilst stocks last. Saving based on a trim and engine Model Year 14 Spark and Model Year 14 Trax. **Saving shown against manufacturers list price whilst stocks last. Savings available until 31st March 2014 or whilst stocks last. 0% APR Representative. Finance subject to status, terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Finance supplied by either Santander Consumer (UK) plc, RBS UK or GMAC PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF5 1YJ. Prices correct at time of print. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. Offers may not apply to all dealers stock.



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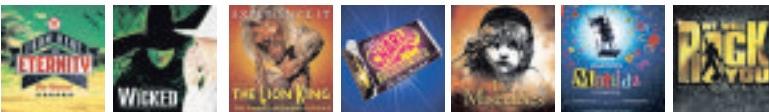
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THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF SANDWELL

(NEW POOL ROAD, CRADLEY HEATH)

(PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING) ORDER 1944

The Borough Council of Sandwell in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2, 45 and 46 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers and after consulting with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, has made an Order which will introduce the following:-

1. No Waiting At Any Time* restriction in parts of Primrose Close, Cradley Heath.

2. Increase the length of 'No Waiting At Any Time' in parts of New Pool Road, Cradley Heath.

3. Limited Waiting Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm 1 hour No Return within 2 hours' in parts of New Pool Road, Cradley Heath.

The Order was made on 18th March 2014, and will come into operation on 12th April 2014.

A copy of the draft Order, statement of reasons for making the Order and map showing the roads affected may be examined at the offices of the Area Director of Street Scene, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE between the hours of 8am - 5.30pm on Mondays to Thursdays and 8am - 5pm on Fridays. A plan is also available to view on the council's website.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or of any provision contained in it or the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, may do so by applying to the High Court for a declaration that the Order has not been made in accordance with a requirement of the Act or that any regulation made thereunder has not been complied with in relation to the Order, within 6 weeks from the 20th March 2014, apply to the High Court for that purpose.

Dated this 20th day of March 2014.

A copy of the draft Order, statement of reasons for making the Order and map showing the roads affected may be examined at the offices of the Area Director of Street Scene, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE between the hours of 8am - 5.30pm on Mondays to Thursdays and 8am - 5pm on Fridays. A plan is also available to view on the council's website.

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Morris is back in the saddle for opener

ASHLEY Morris returns to Heathens colours for their opening meeting of the season at Coventry on Friday.

The Wolverhampton youngster, who left Cradley in the winter after leading them to the Grand Slam last year, will replace the unavailable Paul Starke for the first leg of the Travel Plus Trophy.

Morris will also ride in the return with Starke facing up to missing the first three meetings of the Cradley season.

Boss Will Pottinger is looking for a good start from his revamped side who have been able to retain only Max Clegg, Nathan Greaves and Starke from last season's Grand Slam winners.

He said: "We'll be looking to hit the ground running again this season and get off to a good start like we did last season."

"We've got a couple of challenge matches against Coventry for the Travel Plus Trophy and then once the National League season kicks off we'll be trying to make sure we get off to a strong start."

"We can't wait to get going now and although we have the target on our backs we'll be trying to set out stall early and show we will be one of the teams to beat again."

Banish any fears, says Blues boss

Sheffield Weds 4 Blues 1
BIRMINGHAM boss Lee Clark has urged his side to banish any relegation fears with a couple of victories.

Clark admitted he was getting a touch nervous after Blues' 4-1 reverse at Sheffield Wednesday.

The defeat left Clark's men eight points clear of 22nd-placed Charlton but the Addicks have four games in hand. Wednesday manager Stuart Gray praised his side's victory as one of their best of the season.

Wednesday raced in to a 2-0 half-time. An own goal from Blues' Will Packwood extended the lead ahead of stunner from Lavery. Lee Novak was able to guide home a Chris Burke cross for a consolation effort.

Six of the best for Bulteel in rout

Wolverhampton 1 OHHC 1sts 8

OLD Halesonians Hockey Club's losing streak came to an end after they thrashed bottom of the league Wolverhampton 8-1.

Hales striker Tom Bulteel scored a double hat-trick – the first three in a 15-minute period – as the visitors dominated the game. They were on form throughout as they eased to victory.

Tom Durnford and Paul Woodall were also on target, though Simon Palmer, along with the Wolverhampton captain, was sin-binned.

There was just enough time in the final

Hockey

minutes when the hosts were awarded a penalty flick.

Goalkeeper Steve Charlton, who was virtually unchallenged throughout the entire game, was sent the wrong way, and Wolverhampton got their consolation goal.

Hales have a massive two games ahead of them before the season ends.

They will look to build on this victory, as the play host to Worcester in the penultimate game of the season, which starts at

1.30pm at Ormiston Forge Academy on Saturday.

OHHC - Satellite Club

Old Halesonians Hockey Club are setting up new junior training sessions with local schools, to encourage youngsters to take part in hockey.

Old Halesonians have had an established junior section for many years, where they run and take part in several tournaments and leagues, but are looking to expand and recruit new players.

Girls and boys are invited to come and try hockey at one of the training sessions which

are run by qualified coaches. Old Hales will provide a range of sticks for all sizes, so all that is needed is appropriate clothing, shin pads and a drink.

The sessions are taking place weekly on Sundays, and are open to all ages and abilities. Windsor High School will host a session from 10am-noon, and Ormiston Forge Academy will host a session from 1 to 3pm. Sessions start this Sunday, March 23, and the first session is free. Sessions cost £2 per session thereafter.

Contact Jake Brooke on jake.ohhc@gmail.com for more details

Magic Mike makes his mark for Tividale

Tividale FC 1 Quorn FC 0

TIVIDALE leapfrogged previous leaders Quorn to go top of the Midland Football Alliance table in a pulsating game at The Beeches.

With this being Tividale's fourth game in eight days and Quorn well aware of the home side's attacking capabilities, the game started cautiously.

Apart from a couple of long range efforts, the first 30 minutes passed by without incident.

Tividale felt they should have had a penalty on 30 minutes when Nathan Waite looked to have been pushed in the back by Quorn's Sam Young, before the defender conceded a corner.

From ensuing the Karl Edwards kick the ball was cleared back out to him and his first time shot flashed past the face of the goal. Twelve minutes later Tividale skipper Richard Huckfield rose the highest to meet a Chris Field free kick but his header went straight into the arms of Quorn keeper Charles Price any problems.

In the end it was Tividale who had the best chance when in injury time substitute Kieran Miller was left on his own just inside his area and raced onto a long clearance. Instead of shooting after bearing down on goal he tried to find Edwards but his pass was too short and Quorn cleared.

Tividale: Charles Price, Andrew Parsons, Zac Foster, Chris Field, Mark Smith (Mitchell Plows), Richard Huckfield, David Bellis, Sam Williams, Nathan Waite (Kieran Miller), Michael Wardle, Karl Edwards. Subs: Tim Beech, Ryan Winwood, Luke Paskin

Quorn: Laurie Pearson, Tom Cooper, Sam Young, Jordan Wakeling, James Dodd, Niall Prendergast, Karl Whymark, Dan Henton, Dominic Brennan, Liam Turner, Liam Read. Subs: Blaize Kerr, Nathan Dale, Alex Honour, Michael Turner



Tividale match-winner Michael Wardle, left, gives chase in the clash against Quorn

Spot kick redeems as Sports equalise

Wednesfield 1 Dudley Sports 1

WEDNESFIELD took a 19th minute lead through Jones and held onto it until late into the second half but they had to settle for a West Midlands League Premier Division point.

Sports defender James Padden back-headed a Stevie Douglass pass into the path of Jones who cleverly lofted the ball over Sports keeper Dominic Richards the ball going in off the far post to give the home side the lead. Just before half time the visitors in a rare attack almost snatched an equaliser when Justin Nixon's shot from Craig Tibbets struck Kieron Payne who was standing on the goal line.

The home side shaped up better in the second half as skipper Danny Carter side-footed substitute Scott Embrey's free kick the wrong side of the post.

This was followed by Embrey playing a neat pass to Tom Essex to fire over from 20 yards in the 70th minute. In a rare attack Dudley equalised in the 70th minute when Wednesfield's defender Ashley Bradley was adjudged to have fouled Tibbets in the penalty area. Nixon scored.

Old Hales Seconds are beaten

OLD Patesians 2nds 42

Old Hales 2nds 18

A weakened Old Hales second team went down to a strong Old Patesians side 42-18 despite the Old Hales scumage continually destroying the Old Patesians pack.

Old Halesonians 3rds 53
Ledbury 2nds 14

Old Hales Thirds took on Ledbury 2nds in this rearranged league fixture. Old Hales put on a fine display of expansive rugby for a good crowd of spectators.

Scores came from Lee Davis, Elliot Hickman, Gaz Price, Ben Foster, Tom Lewis, Gary Jones, Harry Young and Luke Irwin.

Old Hales ran in six quality tries in the second half of the game.



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Saxons gear up to push their Luc

Stourbridge Saxons go into this Saturday's encounter at Luctonians knowing they must leave their Herefordshire neighbours with nothing less than a bonus point win to maintain their National 2 North promotion challenge.

Lucs will be looking to avenge a nine-try rout suffered at Stourton Park back in November.

The following Saturday Mar 29 the Saxons contest a season-defining home fixture against fellow contenders Darlington Mowden Park, currently breathing down their necks just a point behind in third place.

They will be seeking revenge for their only away defeat of the season, a 38-8 reversal inflicted at Mowden Park's Northern Echo Arena, but will be without the services of influential flanker James Rodley. But Director of Rugby Neil Mitchell can now keep an eye on the weather forecast and select from an otherwise full squad. Luctonians will always present a significant physical challenge at home, a dry pitch would favour the superior fire-power of the Saxons' three-quarters. Last season the pack selection was simple - the biggest eight blokes in the squad - and there's no reason why it should be different this time.

Lead is taken from Khalsa

Cradley Town 1
Sporting Khalsa 1
AS games go, this was anything but a classic, on a bobby pitch neither side could take significant control of the first half with chances restricted.

The best chance of the half fell to Mark Habershaw who went clear on goal but his shot was saved by Cradley keeper Richard Kennedy.

In the second half Khalsa started to get on top of the game with the opening goal through John Cordy in the 75th minute but 10 minutes later Khalsa switched off from a corner and Carl Martin got an equalizer.

Khalsa responded with three great chances in the last five minutes but the Cradley keeper made some important saves and denied Khalsa all three points. Khalsa's U-15s are in the County Cup.

Party Time Girls

APEX WINES

Six of the best

Double hat-trick for Bulteel in hockey rout

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Mike's magic

Tivs top of the league with a one goal win

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Sutton edge ahead in battle for play-offs

Old Hales 13 Sutton 15

ANOTHER fine Saturday afternoon at Wassell Grove and a top of the table clash with two teams playing for a play-off place.

From the kick-off both teams went at it hammer and tongs at each other, both forwards and backs. Hales were not in the mood to give any ground, shown by the presence of particularly Mark Evans, Pete Fitzgerald, Rich Taylor and Tom Jordan.

The Hales backs looked dominant for a large part of the first half and indeed the whole team deserved more in the first 40 minutes. On 25 minutes, Hales hooker,

Rugby

Pete Fitzgerald was sin-binned for a high tackle. Five minutes later a penalty to Sutton put them in front. Hales then showed excellent phases of play, scrum half Greg Smith fed skipper Rich Taylor on the burst. He passed to the supporting Andy Robinson to score.

The kick was missed but Hales led 5-3. The home side were then penalised again with prop Cliff Tomkinson receiving a yellow card.

Down to 14 men, Hales were on the de-

fensive but as solid as the tackling was Sutton worked well for a try on 40 minutes, converted to lead 10-8.

On 55 minutes, Sutton again came back with some fine open play for a try to lead 15-8. The game was becoming really intense and Hales fought back, camped in the Sutton half. Then a break from the backs fed to winger Luke Smith. He kicked over the defending players, chased but was tripped in the process.

The referee blew his whistle for a penalty but the ball continued to roll on with centre Carl Robinson collecting and scoring a cer-

tain try. But it was disallowed and a penalty awarded. The penalty was taken, but the resulting line out did not reap the benefits deserved for the home side. Hales continued to apply pressure and on 70 minutes great forward play resulted in prop Tom Dempsey driving over for a try wide out.

The conversion was missed which gave Sutton lead with three minutes to go. This was not enough time and Hales failed to come back despite late pressure, Sutton were victorious and now sit second in the league, with Old Hales fourth. On Saturday Hales travel to Broad Street, kick off 3pm

Mel glad Anelka row over

BOSS Pepe Mel believes the end of the Nicolas Anelka saga would benefit Albion's bid for Premier League survival.

The Hawthorns head coach believes the departure of Anelka, who left the club on Friday with the Baggies claiming he was sacked, should remove a potential distraction from his team.

Mel's comments came after news emerged the FA will appeal to FIFA to ensure Anelka does not escape punishment for his 'quenelle' goal celebration by moving countries.

He tweeted on Friday that he had quit Albion, only for the club to claim just hours later that they had sacked the Frenchman for 'gross misconduct' over the gesture at West Ham in December and Friday's tweets.

Mel said: "My relationship with Nicolas Anelka was good and he helped me but I hope now the situation is resolved in the best way possible for all parties."

"The club needs all of its forces and energy to move forward."

"We are professionals and not keeping West Bromwich Albion up would be a failure for everyone."

Contract talks are put on hold

RICHARD STEARMAN'S future will remain in limbo until Wolves' promotion fate is decided after it emerged all contract talks with senior players have been put on hold.

The former Leicester defender has been in excellent form in recent weeks, helping Wolves to six consecutive clean sheets.

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YELTZ CLING ON TO OPEN UP GAP

Halesowen Town 3 Newcastle Town 2

HALESOWEN opened up a five point gap at the top of the Evo-Stik League Division One South, but had to endure an edgy finish.

Yeltz had earlier established a comfortable-looking three goal lead through Ben Haseley, Iyseidene Christie and skipper Joe Hill.

Football

ping shot landed just over the home crossbar.

Home victory looked assured when Hull towered high to power home a far post header from Neil MacKenzie's precise 50th minute cross and put Halesowen three goals to the good.

But Newcastle's Sanders had other ideas and made it an unlikely nervy ending for Halesowen by pulling back two goals. Sanders raced forward to beat a static home defence and lobbed the ball over goalkeeper Matt Sargeant before carrying on to round Sargeant and bundle the ball home on the goal-line after 56 minutes.

Minutes later, MacKenzie curled a 20 yard free-kick past the visiting post and Haseley cut inside full-back James Askey to be free on goal but Alcock made a fine blocking save.

Sanders reduced the arrears further at 3-2 in the 70th minute, rifling into the bottom corner following a neat interchange of passes.

Substitute Joshua Gordon went close to snatching a point when he struck inches wide in the 73rd minute and Castle went even closer.

At the start of the second period Thomas Urwin's dip-

Karlsson gets off to a flyer at Monmore



Sport .. pic John Hipkiss Last Race win for Peter Karlsson (2nd left) against Adam Skornicki, Peter Kildemand and Freddie Lindgren Banks's Olympique Classic 2014. (1898485)

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